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Comics INTERNATIONAL

Issue 44 July 1994 | The Comics Industry Monthly | 72 pages 50p / $1.25

Arson attack results in £50,000 worth of damage

New comic shop in mystery blaze

ON SATURDAY, June 11, a Canterbury-based comics shop burned down within eight weeks of opening. Police consider the fire to be a deliberate and premeditated case of arson.

Incognito Comics' Dave Finn, who co-owns the Canterbury store and another in Maidstone with partner Susan Foord, commented on the torching of his new branch, "The most worrying aspect is that we often work late, and whoever did this had no way of knowing the top floors weren't occupied. Stock can always be replaced, but human lives can't."

It appears that somebody gained access to a small courtyard at the rear of the premises and poured petrol into the shop from a plastic can which was discovered following the blaze.

The fire was ferocious enough to completely gut the ground floor and destroy over 10,000 valuable back issues, including 1940s DCs, key 1960s Marvels and original art. Finn had removed over £120,000 worth of rare titles only hours before the blaze.

"As we carry stocks including such key books as **Superman 1**, it could have been far worse," Finn added. "But I make a rule never to leave such valuables on the premises after hours."

Having traded from Canterbury at local collectors' fairs over four years earlier, Finn left the city when relocated to Hastings.

Returning to a newly competitive Canterbury, Finn believed that with a student base of 10,000 and a council estimated flow-through of 2.5 million tourists a year, he could set up a shop on a main tourist route which would attract customers not being catered for by others.

Siegi Longman, owner of nearby Siegi's Comics, offered his immediate support to Finn upon hearing of the fire, and Maney Amario of the city's Whatever Comics said he was both shocked and horrified by the incident.

Finn expects refurbishments to be soon completed so he can reopen in early July and hopes the police, who are believed to have several leads, will soon apprehend the arsonist and lay to rest any suspicions aroused in the local retail community.

STOP PRESS

Ronald Perelman, owner of the Marvel Entertainment Group, has announced a deal with Hollywood studio MCA for theme parks using Marvel comicbook characters. This enterprise will cost around $100 million per park. MCA, the entertainment subsidiary of Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co, also operates the Universal Studio theme parks in Hollywood and Florida.

*Above: Despite being postponed due to Marvel UK's sudden contraction, Alan Davis's new comic **The ClanDestine** is now scheduled for an August 14 launch from Marvel US with a $2.75 first issue. Both Davis and inker Mark Farmer are believed to be leaving the title after the first three issues. Scott Lobdell and Gary Frank are set to take over the title.*

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A Quality Communications magazine

NEWS · AMERICA ·

Image creators' mixed fortunes

ONE of the most highly anticipated — and most overdue — American comic book series has finally been scheduled by Image Comics.

Whilce (**Uncanny X-Men**) Portacio's **Wetworks**, a three-part series, is due to launch in July.

Plotted and pencilled by Portacio, the title is scripted by Brandon Choi and inked by Scott Williams.

The series was originally solicited in July 1992 as Portacio's first post-Marvel title, to launch alongside **Spawn**, **Youngblood**, **Shadowhawk**, **WildC.A.T.S** and **The Savage Dragon** as a founding Image book.

The Wetworks concept

The team (pictured above, right) consists of military commandos who become encased in suits of golden symbiotic armour. This gives them enhanced powers to complement their combat skills.

The team members are Dane, Pilgrim, Jester, Grail, Mother One, Dozer and Claymore. Their first story involves the team having to stop a threat from a Vampire Nation hoping to unleash a worldwide plague.

Wetworks #1 will retail for $2.50 while issues two and three are expected to retail for $1.95.

Upon completion of the limited series Portacio will leave the title in the hands of former Axis artist Joe Phillips who will produce an ongoing series planned for 1995.

Wetworks creator Portacio has been plagued by personal problems since his split from Marvel, where he was artist and co-plotter on **Uncanny X-Men**. The death of his sister and his mother's illness set the artist back more than two years, although much of the **Wetworks** series was completed before the artist took his enforced hiatus.

Jim Lee is reported to have now bought the book for inclusion with his own titles and there are no plans for Portacio to return to his property.

Portacio has also seen his name removed from the Image founders list, reducing them from a "council" of seven to six, and reports in the US trade press indicate that there may now be a final split between Portacio and Image Comics.

Image's latest writer recruit

Kurt Busiek, best known as the writer of the series **Marvels**, has at least seven writing jobs lined up with California-based Image Comics. This is in addition to him currently working on mini-series for Dark Horse and Topps, the concluding issues of **Valor** for DC, and replacing Fabian Nicieza on Marvel's **Night Thrasher**.

Working across the entire Image Comics line, Busiek will be writing stories for all of the key Image creators. He is set to produce a **Shadowhawk Special** and a **Regulators** mini-series for Image's Jim Valentino and **Spartan** and **Velocity** mini-series for fellow Image founder Jim Lee. In additon, Rob Liefeld has offered Busiek at least three **Youngblood** projects, two of which will be drawn by former **X-Force** artist Liefeld.

Busiek will also be attending this year's UK Comic Art Convention in October.

Troll and Spawn meet Youngblood

Following the success of Image's **Troll** graphic novel, Rob Liefeld has rewritten forthcoming issues of **Youngblood** to incorporate the character into the team and Image has announced the release of a new 48 page **Troll** sequel.

Troll 1: Once a Hero is by the new team of Eldon Asp and Gabe Alverola. Shipping in August, it retails for $3.50.

Rob Liefeld's **Youngblood** #8 features Spawn versus Chapel, as Liefeld draws Todd McFarlane's crime-fighter for the first time in a complete comic. It promises to reveal more about the relationship between Chapel and Spawn which has been introduced in recent **Spawn** issues.

- Don Simpson is to resume his on-off relationship with Image, teaming up with former partner Jim (**Shadowhawk**) Valentino for a one-shot **Normalman-Megaton Man Special** in which the hapless heroes attempt to join the Image Universe. The one-shot also features cameos of Flaming Carrot and **Beanworld**'s Mr Spook, with art by Bob Burden and Image Chief Executive Larry Marder.
- Image's surprise spring hit, **Gen-13**, is to get an ongoing series starting in October, though no creators have been announced.

New readers: begin here

Comics International is a monthly industry newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items, together with reviews and commentary on current titles.

Certain products mentioned are not available through regular news agent outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialists in Britain is given in our Retail Index and Mail Order Index sections.

***Shipping dates** mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to on sale dates or titles for news agent copies.*

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these advance copies will be sold at a higher price than the UK price printed on their covers.

American dollar prices are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 80p = $1.

Most reputable mail order dealers bear a CoBRA seal on their advertisements. For full details concerning advertisers displaying this Mail Order Protection seal, see page 70.

Marvel widens appeal through Disney, Harvey and Spumco

CONTINUING its expansion into new markets, Marvel Comics has announced its publishing plans for the second half of 1994.

Widening its focus from the direct sale super-hero market, low sellers are being cancelled and only five new super-hero comics have been announced.

Silver Sable, **Hellstorm**, **Thunderstrike** and the Spider-Man reprint **Marvel Tales** are all to be cut, because of sales being under 50,000. But by cancelling titles irrespective of their sales pattern, several above the 50,000 mark are safe, even though they may be dropping. Conversely, **Hellstorm** has been growing in strength over the last few months in a pattern similar to DC's **Swamp Thing** when revitalised, but is now prevented from realising its potential to open a new market for Marvel. Creator changes are imminent on **Blade** as Ian Edgington leaves the title, and the entire *Midnight Sons* group is in a slump, dragging down the previously strong **Ghost Rider** which is soon to be disassociated from the rest of the group.

Market widening

Marvel's agreements with Disney and Harvey will lead to an expansion in the childrens' market further reflecting the current trend for humour titles.

● **Disney Afternoon** is a new series based on Disney's afternoon tv series. The magazine-sized comic will include Goof Troop, The Rescue Rangers, Duck Tales and others.

● In November, to coincide with the new animated Disney film *Gargoyles*, Marvel is producing an ongoing series based on the adventures of a band of grotesque stone statues that become night-time avengers of justice. **Batman**'s Mark Badger is one of the artists working on the project.

● For older readers, **Ren & Stimpy** creator John Kricfalusi has signed an exclusive comics contract with Marvel. His first title will be the quarterly **Spumco Comic Book**.

A 64pg magazine-sized title, **Spumco** will feature characters from **Ren & Stimpy** such as Jimmy the Hapless Boy and George Liquor as well as reprints of Harvey Kurtzman and Wolverton strips.

Marvel's Mightiest

AVENGERS Double Feature and **Thunderstrike Double Feature** are two new flip books from Marvel, although the impending cancellation of **Thunderstrike** may affect the lauch of the latter.

Both 48-page first issues will feature the latest Avengers and Thunderstrike issues bound together with the George Perez and Jeff Moore **Giant-Man** four-issue mini-series and Roy Thomas and Larry Alexander's **Code: Blue** mini.

The flip-book titles will retail for $2.50, while standard versions of **Avengers** and **Thunderstrike** will retail for $1.50. Both ship in August.

A certain amount of retailer confusion has arisen out of the solicitation of these two books, prompting shop owners to ask whether the **Avengers** and **Thunderstrike** will be numbered to correspond with their standard titles or will be numbered issues 1 to 4. Many retailers feel that if the **Avengers** and **Thunderstrike** issues are numbered out of regular sequence it could kill the potential sales of the flip books.

● **Avengers** writer Bob Harras continues his rebuilding of The Vision with a four-issue series beginning in August.

The android Avenger (visual below) spends the series contemplating his life whilst tracking down an evil version of himself. Artist John Ross has been assigned to the project.

● In November, **The Silver Surfer** celebrates its 100th issue with the final confrontation between the Surfer and nemesis Mephisto. Artists Jim Hall and Joe Phillips will alternate on the art until issue 100 as regular writer Ron Marz notches up his 50th consecutive issue.

● As Marvel continues its growth in television animation, it is releasing **Marvel Action Hour**, featuring the adventures of both Iron Man and the Fantastic Four. In the same way that the X-Men Adventures tv series led to a comic-book, so will Marvel Action Hour. 2099 editor Joey Cavalieri will write the Fantastic Four segment with Quique Alcatena providing art. Eric Fein will write the Iron Man stories with art by Anthony Williams and John Nyberg.

● **Punisher: Year One** will explore the character's early career. It begins with his second tour of duty in Viet Nam and will include his first meeting with Spider-Man and the reasons why Frank Castle took the contract to kill the wallcrawler. Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning retell the origin of the Punisher, with former Marvel UK artist Dale Eaglesham.

More Spider-Man

Despite the large number of Spider-Man related titles currently being published, Marvel has at least six more related mini-series scheduled for 1994.

● Carl Potts and Bill Reinhold are the creators behind the long-overdue **Prowler** mini-series, first announced in 1992, in which the former Spider-Man villain faces both the Vulture and an evil and twisted version of himself. Priced $1.75, the series launches in September.

● Also launching in September is **Spider-Man Adventures** by Nel Yomtov and Alex Saviuk based on the Fox-TV animated series.

● A Spider-Man/Deathlok four-issue mini-series is planned for autumn, acting as a lead-in to a **Deathlok** mini-series set for December.

● **Spider-Man: Eureka** and **Puma** are scheduled for November releases. While no details are known about **Eureka**, it is believed that Marc DeMatteis is writing the **Puma** series, continuing a story he began in **Spectacular Spider-Man** #193.

● After the conclusion of the current **Venom: Knights of Vengeance** four-issue series, the seventh Venom mini is to appear in December. Howard Mackie has been announced as regular Venom writer for all forthcoming series which will continue to be printed on glossy paper, and retail for $2.95.

Future sellers

Although sales on the many of its 2099 line of titles are proving poor, Marvel continues to support its newest line with further launches.

● **Hulk 2099** is to get his own series leading on directly from the stories in **2099 Unlimited**. Gerard Jones remains as writer but no artist has yet been assigned.

● **Black Panther 2099** has been scheduled for December but there is no information on this title at present.

● The Brothers Hildebrandt (best remembered for their classic **Star Wars** poster) are producing a series of Marvel posters, the first being **X-Men 2099** (part-pictured above) due for release in August, priced $5.95.

Mutant X-pansion

THE X-titles have been Marvel's biggest comics success story over the last decade, culminating in the 8.8 million selling **X-Men** #1.

However, after the launch of **Generation X** in September, there are only two more mini-series planned before 1995.

● **Bishop**, by John (**GrimJack**) Ostrander and Carlos (**Dark Guard**) Pacheco, features the time-displaced X-Man in a mystery involving his dead sister and guest-stars many of his fellow X-Men. Set for an October launch, thanks to the character's tv popularity this is the first of a series of **Bishop** minis.

● The long-awaited and highly anticipated **Rogue** series also ships in October. Acting as a follow-up to the **Gambit** mini, this title will also be written by Howard Mackie. Bryan Hitch supplies the art as Rogue is approached by the Hellfire Club to become their next White Queen.

● Two X-Men one-shots due before the end of the year are **Wolverine: Evilution** by Ann Nocenti and Mark Texeira (September 20, $5.95) and a bookshelf title by Larry Hama, Tom (**Spider-Man**) Lyle & Scott Hanna.

IN BRIEF

Marvel's Disney

MARVEL is to release three more titles in its Disney collaboration. **The Little Mermaid** and **Beauty and the Beast** will ship in July, while in August **Aladdin** debuts. All three $1.50 titles are planned as ongoing series.

The Little Mermaid, formerly a Gladstone title written by **The Incredible Hulk's** Peter David, will now be handled by Trina Robbins with art from Mary Wilshire and veteran colourist and inker Dave Hunt.

Beauty and the Beast is scripted by **Barbie's** Barbara Slate with art by Cosme Quartieri while the creative team for **Aladdin** is Lee Nordling and Anna-Marie Cool.

Brummy Rock it

PANTERA is the latest release from the Malibu musi-comics imprint, Rock-It Comix.

Illustrated by Birmingham artist Trevor Goring and written by America's Mike Carey, the $3.95 magazine-sized colour comic pits the heavy metal rock band against a horde of demon duplicates and ships on June 28th.

Though Trevor Goring has specialised in television and advertising animation for the last ten years, he had previously been known to comics fans through his work for **House of Hammer** (with Brian Bolland) and **2000AD**.

Omaha on the move

OMAHA the Cat Dancer is switching publishers once more.

Originally launched by Fantagraphics in 1981's **Bizarre Sex**, **Omaha** quickly moved across to her own title, published by Kitchen Sink. Over the last nine years this has resulted in four trade paperback collections, a **Bizarre Sex** reprint (numbered **Omaha #0**) and twenty comic books. But following Volume 1 issue 20, the title returns to Fantagraphics who will restart the numbering with volume 2 #1.

After almost 15 years of producing **Omaha**, Waller was philosophical about the split, saying, "We've had a long association with Kitchen Sink, and lots of good memories. KSP is changing, however, and though we wish them the best, we don't feel at home there any more."

Kitchen Sink's last issue (#20) shipped in May priced $2.95, while Fantagraphics' first issue is promised this month, at the lower cover price of $2.50.

Fantagraphics will also pick up the rights to publish the **Omaha** trade paperbacks when Kitchen Sink sell out over the coming year.

Comics phone card

THE latest collecting trend across the United States and Europe is for phonecards with laminated designs laser-etched onto their surface.

A step across from its trading card division, Marvel is releasing its first three illustrated phonecards in August. Priced $10 (for $10 worth of phone calls) these feature: Steve Ditko's **Amazing Fantasy** #15 cover, depicting the first appearance of Spider-Man; Dale Keown's **Incredible Hulk** #393 cover reworking 1962's first issue Kirby cover and the **X-Men** #30 cover by Andy Kubert and Matthew Ryan featuring the wedding of Jean Grey to Scott Summers.

Marvel plans at least twelve more phonecards during 1994 including classic covers and memorable moments from Marvel history.

America's GTS has licensed phone card designs for July featuring Dark Horse's *Monkeyman & O'Brien*, Image's **Hellshock** and six Marvel **X-Men** classic covers.

Both the *Monkeyman* and **Hellshock** cards will be autographed by creators Art Adams (limited to 5,000) and Jae Lee (2,500), and retail for $20 each.

Animated Marvels

FOLLOWING the continued success of the X-Men animated show — now optioned for a fourth series — and the announced September Spider-Man debut on the Fox Network, Marvel is adding a new season of animated superhero adventures, *The Marvel Action Hour*.

Featuring The Fantastic Four and Iron Man, the show will be hosted by the programme's co-executive producer, Stan Lee.

Dark Horse adds humour titles

DARK HORSE expands its line with the launch of three humour titles.

● **Instant Piano** is a bi-monthly comic from the diverse talents of Mark (**Batman**) Badger, Kyle (**Why I Hate Saturn**) Baker, Evan (**Milk & Cheese**) Dorkin, Stephen (**Ren & Stimpy**) DeStefano and Robbie (**Predator**) Busch. It is described as an off-beat humour anthology.

The first issue retails for $3.95 and ships on August 23rd.

● **Devil Chef** is a one-shot humour comic from Jack Pollack which tells of the misadventures of a culinary genius condemned to the depths of Hell. The July 19th shipping **Devil Chef** is a 32 page full colour title and retails for $2.50.

● **Rascals in Paradise** is a three issue series written and illustrated by Jim Silke in the style of Frank Frazetta and Dave Stevens.

The series starts in the 25th Century and ends up in a battle with space aliens and sadistic natives in the Malay jungle of 1932.

This bi-monthly series retails for $3.95 and the first issue ships on August 2nd.

Restructuring the company in the face of its expansion, Dark Horse has recently promoted Diana Schutz to becoming its new editor-in-chief.

Schutz entered the comic industry through a Vancouver-based comic shop before moving to Comics & Comix retailers in California.

She joined Comico in 1985 as editor-in-chief and worked for the ill-fated publisher until 1989. She joined Dark Horse in 1990.

Marvel to handle Harvey humour

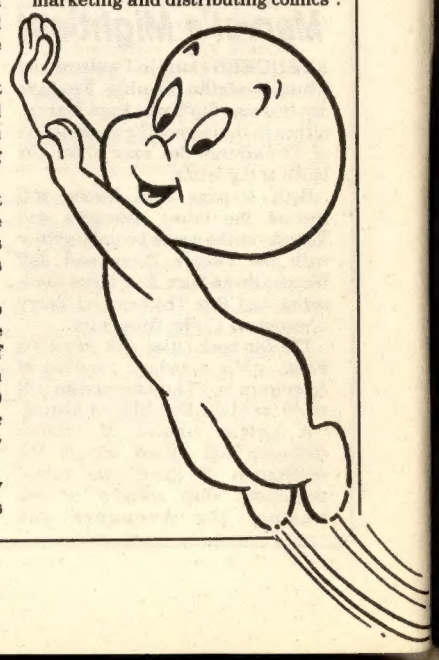
COMICS publishers Marvel and Harvey have entered into an agreement which grants Marvel overall control of Harvey's worldwide publishing and distribution.

The new agreement takes effect from the autumn when Marvel will launch five new Harvey titles with plans to extend the line-up during 1995.

Marvel group vice-president Michael Hobson said how the agreement reflected Marvel's determination to expand in the kids comic book market.

The association between the two publishers is well-timed for the Christmas 1994's live action films of Harvey properties *Richie Rich* (with Macaulay Culkin in the title role) and Steven Spielberg's *Caspar the Friendly Ghost* plus the *Baby Huey* animated TV series this autumn.

Harvey's vice president Barry Blumberg commented, "Marvel is without peer when it 'comes to marketing and distributing comics".



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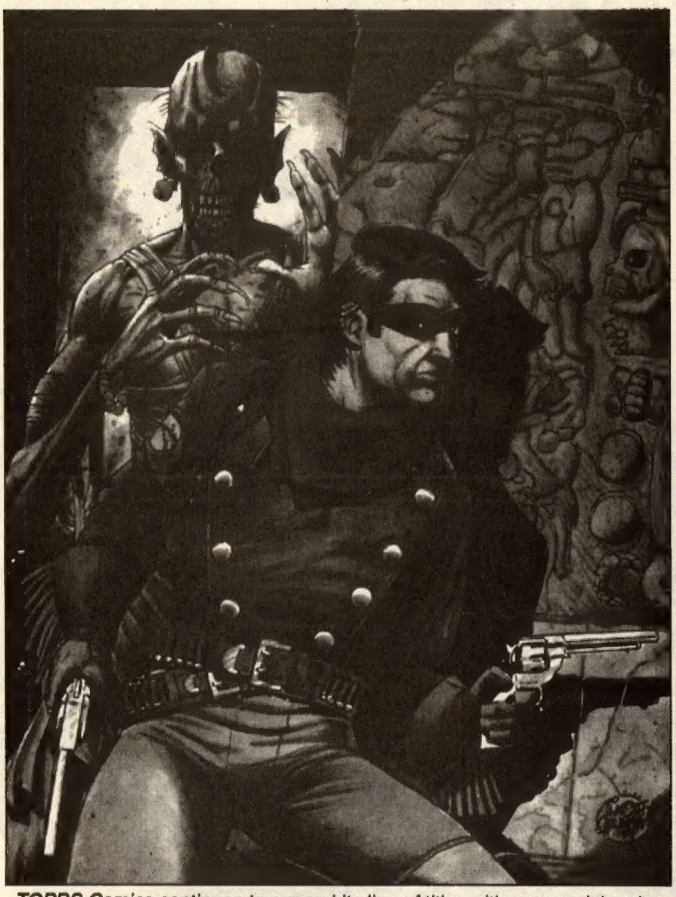

*TOPPS Comics continues to expand its line of titles with a new mini-series. **The Lone Ranger** re-unites Joe Lansdale and Tim Truman, the successful creative partnership of DC's recent western, **Jonah Hex: Two Gun Mojo**. The new $2.50 four-issue series begins in August and pits the Lone Ranger against an avenging Aztec spirit determined to punish the bandits who robbed its grave. Lansdale and Truman, upon completion of this series, then return to DC/Vertigo for a **Jonah Hex** sequel.*

Spawn 19 & 20: the aftermath

A FURTHER twist has been added to the postponement of **Spawn** issues 19 and 20. As announced, these overdue issues have been withheld though the series continues from issue 21.

Todd McFarlane stated that the reason for this precedent-making move was that they were hopelessly late, and McFarlane chose to avoid conflict with distributors over returns and penalty charges that they would incur. An editorial in **Spawn 21**, however, stated that the reason was due to "internal politics".

Sources at Olyoptics, the company which colours **Spawn**, say that the real reason that issues 19 and 20 were delayed was over conflict with DC comics. Apparently, McFarlane wanted to incorporate his **Spawn - Batman** crossover into regular **Spawn** continuity and DC was slow in approving such an idea.

Yet issue 21 sees Spawn having his face stitched up, complaining that it was slashed by "some bozo in black", with an editorial reference to issues 19 and 20. The **Spawn-Batman** crossover culminated with Spawn having his face split in half by a "bat" knife, thrown by Batman. This implies that the two titles do occur in the same continuity, but does not expressly say so. Until the matter is resolved, issues 19 and 20 will apparently remain unpublished.

Company crossovers have often ignored continuity altogether, creating mini "universes" for the characters to meet, with no effect on each title's continuity. Past examples include the **X-Men/Teen Titans** crossover and the Valiant/Image **Deathmate** series.

However, DC's Dennis O'Neil has said that the current **Batman-Punisher** crossovers *will* affect DC continuity as references are made to the event in the regular Batman titles. On the surface, it seems arguably hypocritical for DC to object to Todd McFarlane doing the same in his own book.

Further complicating the problem, some retailers in this country have already said that **Spawn 21** should be made returnable, as it is not the issue they were expecting to arrive. Apparently, they have experienced problems in dealing with customers, who, it seems, often don't believe what retailer say over late shipping and changes, believing it to be the retailer at fault. As a result of missing two issues, some customers have dropped **Spawn**, leading to copies remaining on shelves.

This incident has also undermined Image's credibility. The company had recently improved their reputation with retailers after new launches **Gen-13**, **Kindred** and **The Pact** sold well and Image's renowned late-shipping problems had diminished.

The **Spawn** cancellations may, it seems, have repercussions after all, even though **Spawn** issues 22 and 23 are to ship on schedule. (RJ)

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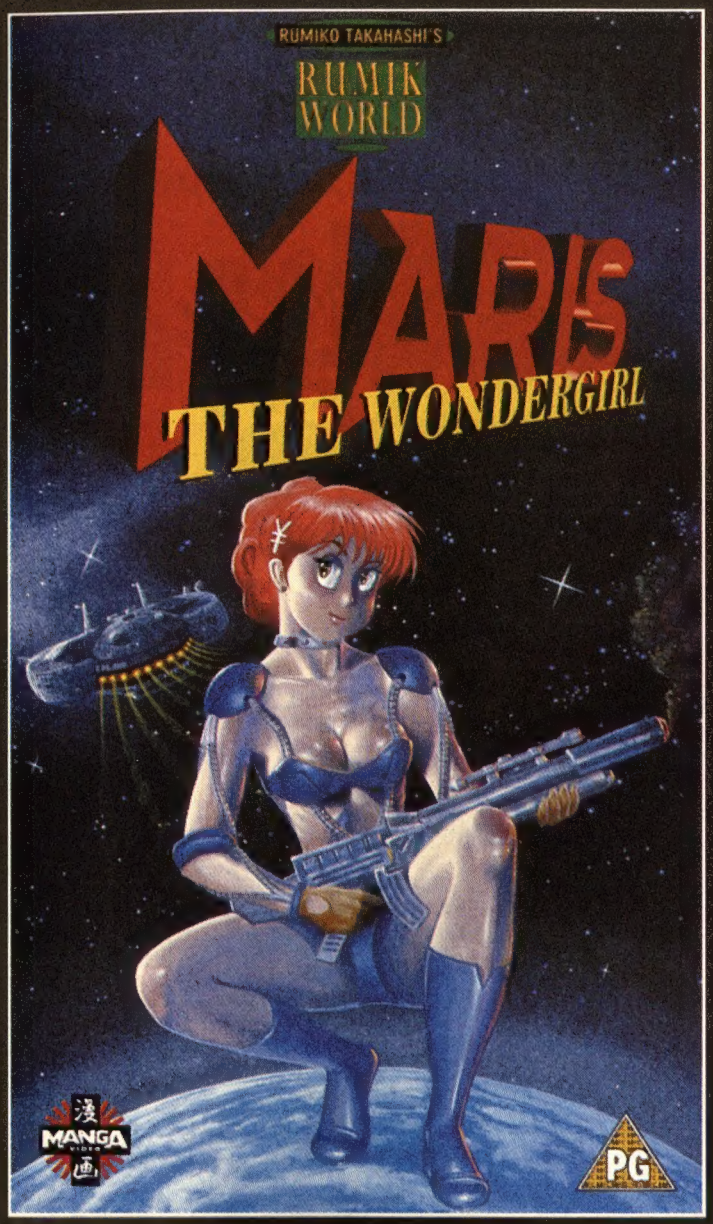

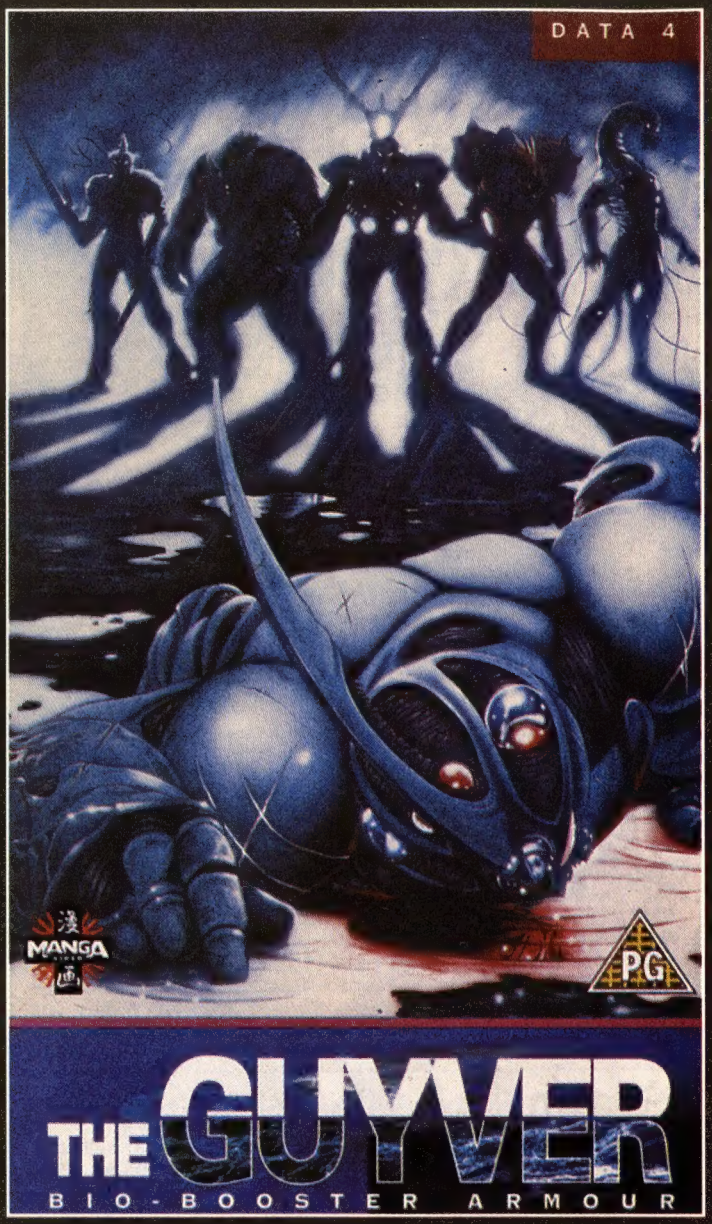

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Next: a new imprint from Mirage

MIRAGE has revealed its latest publishing project, Next Comics, a shared universe of creator-owned series, which can be read independently or collectively.

The first three titles from the Next Comics imprint are resolicitations of titles originally scheduled for over a year ago:

● **Bioneers**, written and drawn by A.C. Farley, tells how an American genetic engineering project goes wrong and the resulting victims of the experiments band together to become Team Dragonfighters.

● **Stupid Heroes 1**, written and drawn by **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** co-creator Peter Laird, tells of Scott Poundstone's affliction with the rare disorder Dementia Dominus and his adventures as the Stupid Hero.

● **Xenotech**, by Michael Dooney and Robert Jones, is set in a future world where interdimensional transporters send beings to the far side of the universe or to other dimensions.

All three titles ship in August and will retail for $2.75 each.

*FORMER DC editor Jonathan Peterson and former **Justice League** penciller Kevin Maguire have joined Malibu's creator-owned Bravura imprint to produce **Strikeback!**. Their first project together, it is an as-yet unscheduled series which former **New Titans** editor Peterson describes as, "A book about real heroes and larger-than-life villains, high adventure, life threatening danger, guys in tights fighting, and even a couple of hundred-foot tall monsters stomping through Hong Kong". Joining Peterson and Maguire on the project is inker Josef (**Superman**) Rubinstein and award-winning colourist Steve (**Spawn**) Oliff.*

Shadowhawk crossover

SHADOWHAWK, Jim Valentino's back-breaking Image creation vigilante, is moving to a six-weekly schedule for summer and will feature a team-up with different Image characters each issue.

Issue 12 guest stars **Youngblood's** Chapel while issue 13 features **WildC.A.T.s**. Issue 14 has characters from Alan Moore's **1963** mini-series and issue 15 features new Valentino creations The Others. Issue 16 features **Supreme** and the crossovers conclude in issue 17 when Todd McFarlane's **Spawn** makes an appearance.

The $2.50 series is written by Jim Valentino and features art by Walter McDaniel and Chance Wolf.

Green Lantern versus Hal Jordan

IN **Green Lantern #0**, Hal Jordan returns to Oa to take the power bestowed upon Kyle Rayner (his GL replacement) and become the ultimate Green Lantern. But once there, he must face up to the carnage that he caused during his power struggle with the Oans and the Green Lantern Corps.

After the DC revamp in which Hal Jordan, the Silver Age Green Lantern, went insane and lost his role of universal protector, a new Green Lantern was created in #50.

In the August 15 shipping issue zero, a battle takes place between the two Green Lanterns, as Jordan attempts to regain his former role.

Written by Ron Marz and drawn by Darryl Banks and Romeo Tanghal, issue zero is a standard format comic retailing for $1.50.

IN BRIEF

DC Comics On-line

DC is entering the world of cyberspace with *DC Comics Online*. The service is available to subscribers of American Online, a modem network for personal computer users.

The service offers artwork, interviews, creator conversations and interactive features. The service goes "online" from July.

Another resurrection

FIRESTORM returns to the DC universe, after the events of **Zero Hour**, as two versions of the nuclear powered superhero reappear in the new Justice League spin-off title, **Extreme Justice**.

Justice League America writer Dan Vado said that the new Firestorms will be independent versions of the two personas the fiery elemental possessed during his 100 issue run.

Extreme Justice will feature the line-up of Captain Atom, Maxima, Blue Beetle, Booster Gold, Firestorm and two new characters.

Artistic changes

FORMER Marvel UK **Death's Head II** artist Simon Coleby is to take over the pencilling duties on **Punisher 2099** from #20.

● **Death's Head II** co-creator, Liam Sharp is to become the new regular penciller on **The Incredible Hulk** from issue 425 when artist Gary Frank's run concludes. Sharp has also drawn the current issue of **X-Men**, number 35.

Diamond acquisition

DIAMOND Distributors has bought the New York-based comic distributors, Comics Unlimited Ltd.

Walter Wang and Ron Forman founded Comics Unlimited in 1977 and have worked closely with Diamond for more than 20 years.

The acquisition adds a further 250 customers to Diamond's growing database of specialist comic shops.

CD Comics

MALIBU Comics has announced the release of three of its Ultraverse titles onto the new computerised CD-ROMIX format.

CD-Romix is a new software line which formats full-length comic books onto CD-ROM. As a result of transferring them to computer, the comics benefit from the high-resolution graphics, character voices, special effects and music.

The launch titles for CD-ROMIX are **Prime #1**, **Hardcase** 1 and **Freex** 1. To access the ROMIX on a computer the user needs at least an IBM compatible 386 computer with 2MB of RAM, a VGA or SVGA monitor and a sound card.

Each CD-ROM comic contains over 130 frames on over 60 screens. The user can run the story at a predetermined speed or it can be manually controlled with a mouse. The soundtrack can be played on a regular CD player.

The package has been developed by Californian-based Davidson & Associates, Inc., a company most noted for its developments in educational software.

The CD-ROMIX will retail for $24.95 and will be compatible with any computer in this country with the capacity stated earlier.

Alternative LEGION

THIS year's **L.E.G.I.O.N. '94 Annual** is part of the *Elseworlds Annual* crossover and features four alternative visions of the **L.E.G.I.O.N.** team.

Regular series writer Tom Peyer is responsible for all four stories with art by Mike McKone on *L.E.G.I.O.N. 007* (see picture), Curt Swan on *The Man From L.E.G.I.O.N.*, Dick Sprang on *L.E.G.I.O.N. Archives*. The artist for the humorous *L.E.G.I.O.N. 90210* story has yet to be announced.

The 64 page annual retails for $3.50 and ships July 12th.

Lightning cancels

DUE to the decline in orders for Lightning's **Judgment Day** (billed as having a print run limited to 80,000), it is cancelled with #9.

Despite orders on their other titles also dropping, no further cancellations have been announced.

Valiant name change

VALIANT Comics has announced a change in the name of its newest title. The series which was originally solicited as **Starwatchers** has been changed to **Psi-Lords**, in order to avoid confusion with the Jean (Moebius) Giraud created *Starwatcher* character.

Batman & Predator II

DC and Dark Horse have announced the sequel to the successful 1991 mini-series **Batman vs. Predator**.

Written by Doug Moench, **Batman vs. Predator II: Bloodmatch** features art by Moench's **Master of Kung Fu** co-creator Paul Gulacy. Terry Austin is the inker for the four-issue series, with the first issue shipping on October 11th.

The story has Batman and The Huntress on the trail of a rogue Predator, unaware that two Predator cops are also on its trail and two hitmen on theirs. Moench said of the series, "Everyone is hunting everyone else."

Liefeld's Victory

CONTINUING the current trend for stitching a new cover with different artwork on every fifth copy of a comic (as with Stephen Platt's alternative on **Prophet #4**), Topps has announced that every fifth copy of **Victory** #1 will feature a Rob Liefeld cover.

MAJOR DIGRESSIONS

Changing history: the comics way

Peter David, writer of comics, paperbacks, film scripts and stuff, contributes a weekly column, "But I Digress" to US trade paper ***The Comic Buyer's Guide****. In addition to appearing monthly in* ***Comics International****, his columns have been compiled by Krause Publications into a 258 page paperback, now available in all good comic shops.*

THE RUMOUR was flying all over the Capital City Distribution sales conference — supposedly "confirmed" by Marvel's sources — and then moved out into the public arena, as I started getting calls from people unable to contain their incredulity: "Have you *heard* what they've got planned with Spider-Man?" they asked me.

There are several rumours floating around about upcoming story lines for Marvel's flagship character. Now, rumours are good things, as far as publishers are concerned. They get people talking. They boost sales. They get coverage in trade publications. And, of course, they boost sales.

When asked about the rumours in general — and this one in particular — Spidey editor Danny Fingeroth said cagily, "I try to put out as many tantalising rumours as I can. As always, the real facts will be revealed in the pages of Spider-Man comics."

A wise and diplomatic answer. And it should be noted that any story development, no matter how loopy, is not automatically horrendous. Remember, I was Marvel's sales manager at a time when Walt Simonson said, "We're going to turn Thor into a powerless frog. But don't worry — he gets his hands on his hammer again and regains his powers. Of course, he's still a frog, but now he's the *Thunder Frog*."

And it worked and it sold.

I have also noticed that fans can hate a writer and drop a comic book — or they hate an artist and drop a comic book — and yet, if they encounter a story line that's utterly abominable, they'll pick up extra copies just so they can complain about it. So the bottom line can be very positively affected. On the other hand, if the rumour I'm about to tell you *is* true, and Marvel *doesn't* manage to capture the fancy of the fans with it, then Kevin Dooley should really drop Danny a nice thank-you note for turning the torch-bearing You-Destroyed-Hal villagers away from DC and towards 387 Park Avenue South, New York.

Here's the particular rumour that is spreading like jock-itch through the collective groin of comics: remember the Spider-Man clone?

For those who don't, it went like this: nutsy professor Miles Warren (aka the Jackal, although not the one who tried to plug Charles De Gaulle) made a clone of Gwen Stacy, Pater Parker's paramour, who was murdered at the hands of the Green Goblin (in a story that fans with no sense of history believe was written by Kurt Busiek; these same fans are probably, at this moment, trying to figure out in which mutant comic book Charles DeGaulle was a character).

For good measure, Warren also made a clone of Peter Parker.

There was a battle. The clone apparently got snuffed. Spidey dropped the webbed-up body into an incinerator chimney, then went home, found Mary Jane waiting for him and (it is subtly implied) got horizontal and sweaty.

He then spent the entire next issue (#150) trying to figure out whether he was, in fact, the genuine article or maybe he was the clone, since the clone had all of Parker's memories. At the end of the story, he came to the realisation he was, in fact, the original, and was, in fact, nuts about Mary Jane (which, considering what we believe happened between issues #149 and #150, is something of a relief).

This all happened in the mid '70s.

Then, a bunch of years later, the dangling plot thread of the Gwen clone was addressed, in which it was revealed she was *not* a clone, but a poor Gwen look-a-like who had been brainwashed into *thinking* she was a clone. As for the Peter Parker clone, he was in fact Warren's former assistant who had undergone the same process.

With me so far?

Okay.

Flash forward to the present.

The rumour I heard from several sources (and I emphasise it is only a rumour — but this isn't a news column, so I don't have to stick to reporting strict news) is that it is going to be revealed that the Peter Parker who's adventures we have all been following for the past twenty-some years...

He's the clone.

That, in fact, it was the clone Spider-Man who triumphed and the real Peter Parker who got dumped down the incinerator.

Except now the real Peter Parker is coming back, the current Peter Parker will go away, and we will be left with a Spider-Man who is both all-new and yet the original item. The ultimate retcon.

Which means two decades of character development are moot.

Which means that the marriage between Peter and Mary Jane is moot.

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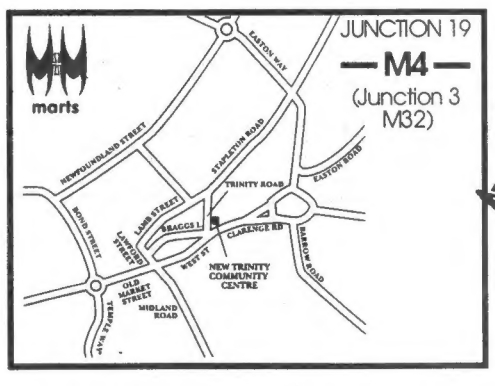

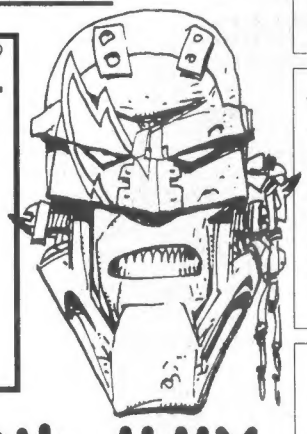

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I've also heard it the other way — that the Parker clone is, indeed, returning, but "our" Peter Parker is the genuine item, and this is just a story element that simply amounts to a 1990s edition of "Send in the Clones."

But consider...

In the upcoming animated series (from which a toyline springs) Peter Parker ain't married. If kiddies watch the cartoon and go to pick up the comic book and find that Peter is, in fact, married to MJ, well that might be a turn-off. How convenient, if Peter were footloose again, but without the necessity of (a) killing Mary Jane or (b) burdening Spider-Man with the stigma of being divorced.

What's amazing (they don't call him the **Amazing Spider-Man** for nothing) is that Marvel could actually get away with it. Sure long-time fans would freak over being asked to swallow the notion that 20 years worth of stories don't matter. But consider: Popular theory is that the average turnaround in comic-book readership is about four years. This means that many present-day readers may not be all *that* attached to the current Peter Parker. Not only that but, five years from now, why, those future readers won't even be aware that there *was* any sort of double switch. Remember, after all, that there are readers out there right now who are under the impression that Jim Lee created The Juggernaut.

(Of course, even if it turns out to be a miserable idea, Marvel won't cop to it. That's the difference between Marvel and DC. If DC gets itself into a major fix, it just starts over and pretends that the previous stuff never happened. In short, DC ignores it, which lends a tremendous air of artificiality to the proceedings. Marvel goes to the other extreme. There's no crime in coming up with a bad idea; it's gonna happen. They can't all be winners. But it occasionally appears that Marvel will belabour a misfire, sometimes for years, so it seems like part of an over-all plan rather than a single wrong-headed notion.

It's the corporate and editorial equivalent of Pee-Wee Herman taking a header off his bike, scrambling to his feet, and, endeavouring to whitewash the disaster, archly announcing, "I *meant* to do that.")

Keep in mind, we've had Alec Holland, the Swamp Thing, turn out to be a mass of plant life that only *thought* it was Alec Holland. We've seen The Vision and Scarlet Witch's children turn out to be an illusion. We've seen the Torch's marriage to Alicia go up in flames, when she turned out to be a Skrull. We've seen Superman die and come back — and Hal Jordan turn into a nut. On that basis, brushing off the last couple hundred issues of Spidey comics books isn't that much of a stretch.

Of course, you have to factor in the outrageous factor.

Every major, highly publicised story arc we've seen in the past year or two has escalated the stakes in terms of trying to come up with stuff that will — to put it bluntly — aggravate people. We had can-you-top-this with cover enhancements for a while, but that's worn thin. So now we're seeing that same mentality at work addressing developments of the heroes. In theory, this is good. In practice, it could well make people nostalgic for cover enhancements.

Still, I do have to make a living...

So, publishers, here are some suggestions from your Humble Servant as to other possible shocking story revelations and directions you might want to explore. Just make sure to spell my name right on the cheque:

Captain America. Remember the commie-fighting Captain America from the 1950s? Yes, yes, I know, he was brought back in a memorable series of stories in which it was revealed that he was, in fact, an imposter who only *thought* he was Captain America (complete with Bucky).

Now, here's the shocking switch. The modern-day Captain America? He is, in fact, the *real fake Captain America from the 1950s*, brainwashed into *thinking* he's the original. (I mean, c'mon, you didn't *really* buy that farfetched frozen-in-ice story, did you?) In a stunning turnaround it is revealed that the fake Captain America from the 1950s is, in fact, the *real* real Captain America from the 1940s (complete with Bucky), and he returns to confront the real fake Captain America. (OK, granted, the 1950s Captain America is supposedly dead, and his Bucky became Nomad. C'mon. You went with me this far.)

They battle, the real fake Captain America is destroyed, leaving us with the real real Captain America, who discovers he also is, in fact, *not* Captain America, but in fact the clone of the *real original* Captain America who we have, in fact, never seen before, but in fact in fact, is a man named Murray Peyser who's been living a quiet existence in Bayonne, New Jersey, until Hydra attacks, and he swings into action to become the new Captain America for the 1990s.

Iron Man. Tony Stark's armour becomes self-aware, sentient, female, and falls in love with Tony Stark. Tony Stark, who has just discovered that his excess womanising is a cover for his own insecurity about his sexual identity, doesn't reciprocate.

The armour strikes out on its own. It synthesizes a voice for itself and starts going by the named of **Clankage**. It then runs amok, cutting a swath of destruction and mayhem through the Marvel universe in a 12-issue story line entitled *Maximum Clankage*. At the end of the story, the armour vanishes and is presumed dead but, in fact, has moved to Ottumwa, Iowa, where it will operate out of an abandoned tuna

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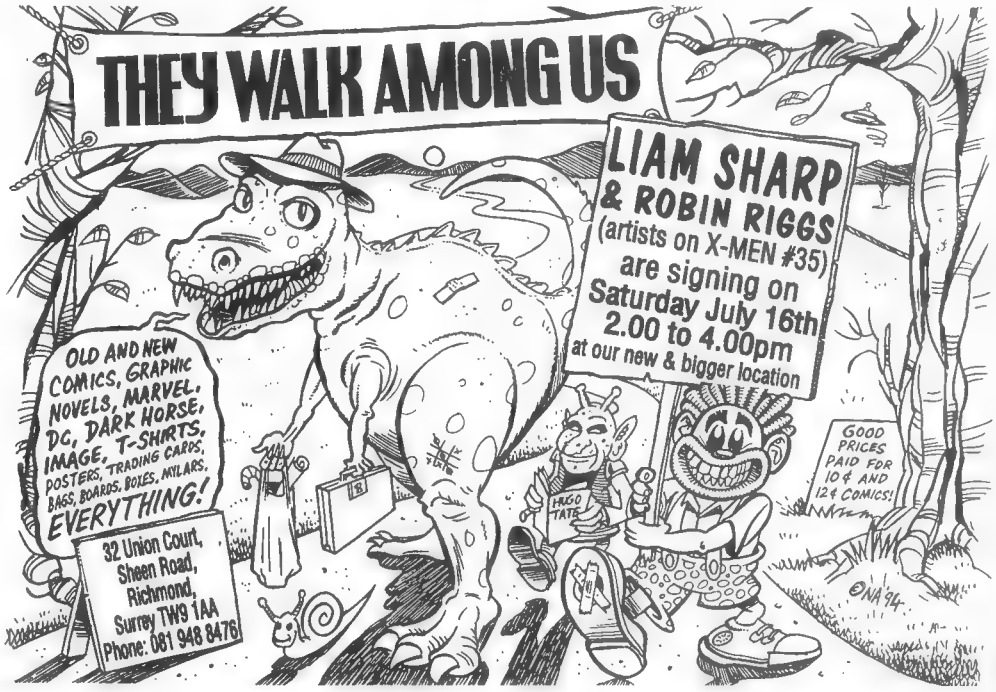
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cannery and become a heroic villainous figure.

There will be four issue limited series, followed by a new ongoing series entitled, in a dramatic twist, **Clankage 2099**.

Spawn. In a totally unexpected twist, Spawn from **Spawn-Batman** teams up with Spawn from **Batman-Spawn**. The up side of this is that, instead of having Spawn wander around the city talking to himself, we now have two Spawns doing the same thing, but at least they look like they're having a conversation. (Tribute note: The preceding joke was swiped from Lily Tomlin.)

The two Spawns investigate their murder and discover to their shock that they've made an error. Spawn was not killed by Chapel of **Youngblood**, as had previously been thought, but in fact by Nurse Chapel from **Star Trek**, thereby setting up the much-awaited **Spawn/Star Trek**, **Star Trek/Spawn** crossover.

Archie Lobo Crossover. Archie discovers that he and everyone in Riverdale is trapped in a time vortex and haven't aged in 50 years. It's an insidious plot put forward by old Legion opponent The Time Trapper, and Lobo is dragged into the confrontation. The vortex is destroyed, and the Archie characters age overnight into the older versions who showed up in the made-for-TV movie a couple of years back.

Punisher. In a totally unexpected twist, it is revealed that Frank Castle is, in fact, not human. (Which, let's face it, explains a *lot*.) He is a previously unknown and unhatched Cosmic Cube.

In a bookshelf edition entitled **Punisher: Your Family's Dead, Get Some Counselling Already**, The Punisher is ambushed, riddled with more holes than a Tim Burton movie, and left for dead.

He then splits and becomes *two* new beings, one female, one male: The Punisher and the Punishim, respectively. The Punishim is a berserker who slays tons of criminals using tons of heavy armament. The Punisher is a thoughtful, considerate, and angst ridden heroine who slays a few criminals with a two-shot Derringer. Expect a line of Punisher fashion dolls to appeal to female readers.

And just remember — you read about it here first. © Peter David, 1994

*(Peter David, writer of stuff — in the vein of discussing upcoming unexpected plots — apologises in advance to all readers who will not be able to find **Aquaman** #2 in August. Events occur that are as cataclysmic (but not as stupid, one hopes) as any of the foregoing, and the artwork by Marty Egeland and Brad Vancata is, quite simply, exceptional. But retailers are unaware of it, and orders for it will undoubtedly be lowballed. Sorry, folks.)*

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New manga from Equinox

EQUINOX Manga is a new imprint published by Mandarin Books which will be releasing four titles towards the end of the year.

Three of the books feature the work of the renowned Katsuhiro Otomo: **Akira**, a full colour Japanese format softcover (364 pages; retailing for £10.99); **Domu**, a black and white supernatural SF thriller (240 pages retailing for £8.99) and **Memories**, a collection of short stories following on from **Akira** and this summer's **Roujin Z** (240 pages; £8.99).

The fourth of Equinox Manga's titles is **Gon** (pictured below), which collects eight short stories about the small Jurassic dinosaur. The 280 page black and white collection will retail for £8.99.

Equinox Manga is Michael Bennent's new company. Bennent is best known for having been a key player in UK comics as editor of Fleetway's **Crisis** and the Xpresso line, as well as editing Marvel UK's Frontier line and being instrumental in setting up Dark Horse International.

Telegraph Toons

ON July 2nd **The Daily Telegraph**'s Saturday supplement, *The Young Telegraph* began two new strips featuring Warner Bros. animated characters.

Looney Toons and The Tasmanian Devil's *Tas-Mania* — now with its own solo TV series on Childrens ITV — is written by Leicester-based Dave King, while the artwork, by Stephanie Gladden and Chuck Fiala, is generated from the company's New York offices.

Dave King has already produced three years of scripts for Warner Worldwide Publishing as well as writing *The Workers* strip for **The Daily Star**.

Comics to swap

TO TIE in with the Museum of London's *Carry on Collecting* theme for this summer, there is a Comic Capers Swap Shop on July 3rd, designed for comic fans to bring unwanted titles along and swap with other people.

The Barbican-based museum is at London Wall, London EC2Y (five minutes from St Paul's underground station) and is open 10.00am to 5.50pm except Mondays.

IN BRIEF

Anniversary 2000AD

FLEETWAY has announced that **2000AD** #900 will be a single-story issue featuring a special full-length Judge Dredd story, the first time the comic has done this.

The full colour strip is written by Dredd co-creator John Wagner and painted by John (**Thing From Another World**) Higgins.

Bad to the Bone

PROVING that there are many ways of breaking into the comics industry, a group of industrious creators from Cheshire including Noel K Hannan, Rik Rawling, Tom Simonton and Derek Gray formed *Bad to the Bone Grafix*.

As a direct result of them producing their own material, horror comic publishers Fantaco has bought the creators' **Night of the Living Dead** mini-series and stories for the company's anthology titles **Kill Me Slowly** and **Rabid**.

Other projects from Bad to the Bone Grafix include **Tales From the Weird West, Wild Tundra** and **Guardians of Eden**.

Summer Deadline

ON sale now is the $2.95 **Deadline Summer Special** which features a John Bolton **Tank Girl** cover.

The 128 page special will be on sale for the next two months and includes music features on the Beastie Boys, Lush and Ride as well as comic strips with *Tank Girl*, *Exit* and *Milk and Cheese*.

NHS under fire

Health Service Wildcat is the fourth of CCG chairman Donald Rooum's Wildcat cartoon books.

It presents an anarchistic view of the National Health Service in a 48 page landscape paperback format and is on sale now, priced £1.95.

Rescheduled Minds

A PROJECT originally commissioned for Trident before the Leicester-based publishers ceased has found a new home with a new small press imprint.

Parallel Minds by John A. Short and Nick Dyer is a six-issue mini-series due for release by House Atreides Publishing in September.

The series is about a group of super-powered teenagers all based in a Midlands university, who have to come to terms with both their super-powers and their impending final exams.

Second 'Storm

Savoy releases the second issue of **Reverbstorm** on July 11th. The 56 page quarterly is priced £3.50.

ADMISSION FREE

CARD MART

1994 SUNDAY AUGUST 7

CAMDEN CENTRE
Bidborough Street
London WC1
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CARD MART is Britain's first regular American-style trading card show. At **CARD MART** you will find:

SPORTS CARDS: Baseball, Basketball, American Football & Hockey.

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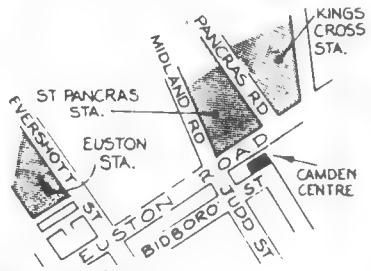
For boxes, sets, singles or insert cards, **CARD MART** is the place for American sports and non-sports trading cards.

Refreshments are available throughout the day from the refreshment area located in the dealers room.

DEALERS: For table availability, phone Rob on 071 476 1810

Future CARD MART dates:

October 16th, December 4th, 1994.



How to get there:

Bus: 10 14 18 30 45 63 73 214 or 259 to King's Cross or Camden Town Hall
Underground: Circle, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly or Victoria Line to King's Cross.

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Carlos Ezquerra: Beyond 2000

CARLOS Ezquerra, co-creator of Judge Dredd, has made a giant artistic leap, courtesy of Apple MacIntosh computers.

While comics have been created on computers in the past, notably on First's **Shatter**, Marvel's **Iron Man: Crash** and DC's **Batman: Digital Justice**, they have invariably looked crude because of the limitations of the software.

But Ezquerra, using an Apple MacIntosh Quadra 650 computer, an electronic pencil with pressure sensitive pad and a 600x1200 dpi scanner, has created full colour art which **2000AD** group editor Alan McKenzie describes as "stunning".

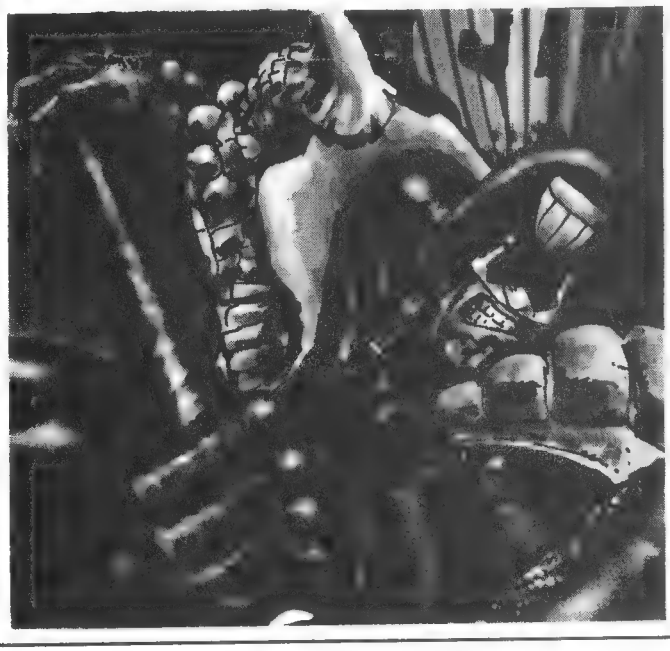
While previous attempts were obviously created on computers, with harsh dot matrix end products or flat line work, the Ezquerra 6-page Dredd strip plus cover art scheduled for **2000AD** 890 looks as good as hand-drawn work.

The advantages of generating art on cumputer are numerous. Outside of speed as the user becomes familiar with the system, there is no risk of loss or damage to the originals en route to the publisher, and letterers (such as Fleetway's Tom Frame and Steve Potter) are already working with their own personalised type faces on computer, so the pages can be fully assembled on screen.

The magneto-optical discs can then be sent direct to the output repro house, who create film seperations with far greater purity of colour and clarity than can be achieved from original hand coloured art.

Richard Burton, **2000AD** editor-in-chief, said of Ezquerra's work, "Carlos has made the biggest step yet, there's absolutely no compromise in quality."

Or, as Carlos puts it, "I'm taking **2000AD** into the 21st century".



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COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE

1994 SUNDAY JULY 24

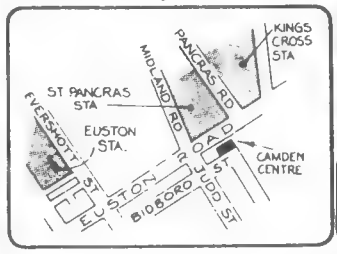
CAMDEN CENTRE BIDBOROUGH ST LONDON WC1

The Comicbook Marketplace is held every two months at the Camden Centre and is just a few minutes walk from King's Cross, St. Pancras and Euston Stations.

There are more than ninety tables with over 200,000 comicbooks and magazines on sale, including S.F., fantasy, film and T.V. related items, from Britain's top dealers.

Sandwiches, rolls, snacks and hot and cold drinks are available throughout the day from the refreshment area located in the dealers room.

How to get there: Bus: 10, 14, 30, 45, 63, 73, 214 or 259 to King's Cross or Camden Town Hall. Underground: Circle, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly or Victoria Line to King's Cross.



DOORS OPEN MID-DAY ADMISSION FREE

THERE WILL BE A COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES IN 1994:

JULY 24th, OCTOBER 30th.

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UK COMIC ART CONVENTION

1994

UKCAC94

TEN GREAT YEARS

OCTOBER 1-2 1994

Institute of Education/Royal National Hotel, Central London

ADMISSION PRICES

For the seventh year running the advance admission price for the whole weekend and convention booklet is only **£15.00.** The advance admission price for one day and convention booklet is **£10.00.** Your application must reach us by **Monday September 12th 1994. THERE WILL BE SPECIAL GIFTS (ON THE DOOR) FOR EVERYONE WHO APPLIES IN ADVANCE.**

● ***Anyone who brings along the previous nine UKCAC booklets from 1985-1993 will get in FREE!***

● **Free entrance also to anyone under 14 if accompanied by an adult!**

THE CONVENTION

There will be talks and discussions featuring the convention guests, opportunities to obtain autographs and sketches. Representatives from publishers will be present looking at portfolios. There will also be thousands of comics for sale as well as original artwork.

ACCOMMODATION

This year to save you money and give you more flexibility, we will send you information of nearby cheap accommodation. You can then book the rooms for as long as you like. The average price is £20 per night and includes breakfast.

GUESTS FROM ABROAD SO FAR INCLUDE:

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DENNY O'NEIL
KURT BUSIEK
ROBERTA GREGORY
JAMES ROBINSON
SCOTT McCLOUD

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PLUS MANY OF THE TOP BRITISH CREATORS

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You should receive your convention entrance badge within two weeks of applying.

● **IMPORTANT:** If you have not received your entrance badge by **Friday September 23rd 1994** contact us immediately, preferably including a telephone number where you can be contacted.

● **IMPORTANT:** We've managed to keep the admission price the same now for seven years by keeping costs down. Please include a stamped and self-addressed envelope with your application so that we can send you your entrance badge.

If you do not enclose a stamped addressed envelope, your application will not be processed.

● **FANCY DRESS PARADE** : We want this to be the biggest event so far - so we obviously want many of you to enter. This year there will be more winning categories than before, eg, most realistic costume, most original, silliest costume, best group, young person's, sexiest male and female costumes, etc. This year the overall winner will go to one entrant only - either a solo entrant or someone from a group entry. **A £10 refund or video of the event for all contestants.**

● While all advertised guests have confirmed their attendance, we cannot accept responsibility for them not being present.

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ADVANCE APPLICATIONS BY MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12

BIBLE of the entertainment industry **The Hollywood Reporter** is to publish its first issue dedicated to the comics medium. The special edition will be distributed to global subscribers and at the San Diego Annual Comics Convention in August this year.

That **The Hollywood Reporter** has announced such a departure from its traditional publishing schedule is signal of the fact that, despite a widely predicted disenchantment in Los Angeles, comics-originated films such as *The Crow* (steaming at the box office) are still seen as attractive properties.

Pundits predicting the move away from safe, comics-originated films have been proved too optimistic about any upturn in the US economy that would allow producers to look elsewhere for ideas. A sluggish recovery, along with the recent fall in the dollar, means that financiers are still looking for known characters and story-lines to exploit — or so the received wisdom goes.

But that does not explain the success of *The Crow*. In fact, the only developed history the character has is in the four (meant to be five) erratically published black and white issues Jim O'Barr created for Caliber Press in 1989-1990 which Kitchen Sink - Tundra compiled last year as a trade paperback.

$50 million and climbing

Outside of the untimely death of lead actor Brandon Lee leading to a ghoulish interest, the success of the film — with a current revenue total of $50 million — is attributable to the Crow's likeness to other, long-established comics characters (a "poor man's Batman", as one critic described it). Familiar territory it may be, but even a hackneyed character can be given a patina of novelty if set within a fantasy context.

Whatever the nature of the relationship between comics and film in the future, there's one thing for sure; comics provide a perfect environment for a story or character's dry run — the costs are nominal and the feedback from the similar core target audience instant. Everything points towards a long-term interaction between the two media, and that can only be reinforced by the growth of multi-media companies.

Malibu: straight aces

Malibu Comics Entertainment Inc has been signed up by William Morris, one of Hollywood's most powerful agencies.

mEDIAFILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

William Morris will represent Malibu in film, TV, video interactive and "emerging technologies" markets — that is, anything else likely to come along — handling negotiations with individual companies for the exploitation of Malibu's products.

According to **The Hollywood Reporter** (21.6.94), Malibu have stated: "the initial focus of the Morris office will be to set up deals for its Ultraverse comic-book characters in multimedia outlets".

The Ultraverse titles have proved, according to Malibu's figures, extraordinarily successful; during the first year sales reached a total of 12 million. The company is already powering up in the interactive market, with a three-title video game deal reportedly signed with Sony Electronic Publishing. The games — again based on Ultraverse characters — are due for release during late 1994 or early 1995.

The games market is hardly fresh turf for the comics company; Malibu Interactive, its multimedia sister, has already developed *Batman Returns*, *Battlecars*, *BattleTech*, *Evander Holyfield Boxing* and *Joe Montana Football*. And Malibu already has a film adaptation in development — *The Men in Black*.

Ultraverse titles highlighted for early feature film projects by the William Morris agency are their big-guns **Prime**, **Sludge** and, inevitably, **Rune**.

The agency has made a hot signing and knows it: "Malibu is a gold mine of unexploited characters and properties we intend to mine in all media," Paul Bricault, William Morris's new media account executive told **The Hollywood Reporter**.

Scott Rosenburg, Malibu's chief executive, could do little other than respond gracefully, noting that "William Morris's skills and expertise at putting together highly visible entertainment packages will help us see through our dream of using our comic characters in all of the various multimedia outlets, including movies and television".

Dark Knight's lover

Warner Bros. has announced that American actress Rene Russo has been signed to appear in *Batman Forever* (as the "Dark Knight's love interest") opposite Michael Keaton. Russo starred in *Lethal Weapon 3* and in *In the Line of Fire*. She is currently working on Dustin Hoffman's new film, *Outbreak*. *Batman Forever* is scheduled to begin shooting during September, directed by Joel (**Flatliners**) Schumacher; Tim Burton is executive producer.

Spider-Man in stasis

All's quiet on the *Spider-Man* front: last news was that the film's production had been put back because of conflicting schedules for James Cameron (he had just signed a five-picture deal with Fox). But recent listings in **The Hollywood Reporter's** "In Development" section show few details apart from "Prd/Dir/Scr., James Cameron". With the company credits attributed to Lightstorm Entertainment and the reportedly bankrupt Carolco Pictures, could the film — in reality — have been put on permanent hold?

Marriage of the moguls

Marvel Entertainment's largest shareholder, Ronald O Perelman, has concluded a deal with one of the media world's most powerful men, Rupert Murdoch.

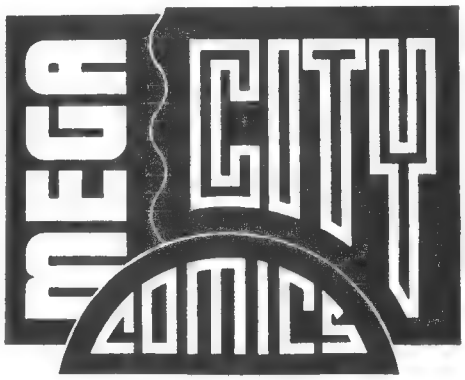
Perelman, who took over Marvel in 1991 (see **Comics International** passim), bought a number of TV stations located in big US cities during the worst period of the recession, when industry share prices were at their lowest.

Under the umbrella of the New World group, Perelman — who at 51 is said to be the eighth richest individual in America with a personal net worth of $3.86 billion — embarked on a series of acquisitions and mergers.

With a wedge of the market under his control comprising 12 TV stations, foreign distribution and domestic syndication deals, Perelman was in a position to negotiate with Rupert Murdoch, Fox TV controlling shareholder.

During last month, it was announced that the debt-heavy New World had received a massive $500 million investment from Murdoch's Fox Broadcasting in return for the Perelman-owned company's affiliation with the Fox network.

At this rate, Perelman seems to be making a bid for a Murdoch-like status — or perhaps even sees himself as a future Ted Turner (head of Time Warner, the ex-Turner Broadcasting CTN head man). And oddly enough, Perelman's right-hand man and a major shareholder of New World is William Bevins, former chief financial officer of Turner Broadcasting.



BACK-ISSUE BONANZA

MARVEL

AVENGERS

2 VG £80
12 FN/VFN £33
14 FN/VFN £28
18 FN/VFN £30
21 VFN £18
22 FN/VFN £15
24 FN £9.50
28 FN+ £12
32 VFN £9
45 fn/vfn £6.75
66 FN £4.95
123 VF/NM £6
135 VF/NM £6.50
135 VFN £5.95
146 VF/NM £4.50
149 VF/NM £4.50
180 ..... £1.75
184,185 Byrne ... £1.95
188-191 Byrne ... £1.75
194,195,201-203 . £1.50
205 ..... £1.75
206,231,233 .... £1.50
235,239-242 .... £1.50
245-248 ..... £1.50
250 GS £1.75
259-261,265 .... £1.25
267,270-275 .... £1.00
277-280,284,286 . £1.00
289,296,298,301 . £1.00
303-311,313-325 . £0.95
326 1st Rage £2.50
327 Rage £1.25
330-333 ..... £0.95
335-345,348-359 . £0.95
363 Foil cover £2.25
364,366 ..... £0.95

CAPTAIN AMERICA

ANNUAL 8 NM £15
ANNUAL 8 FN ... £9.50
100 VG+ £59
102 VFN £21
102 FN £12.50
103 FN £12.50
104 VF/NM £25
104 G/VG £6.50
105 VG £6.50
105 FN £13
105 VFN £15
106 VG £7
106 VF/NM £25
107 FN/VFN £13
108 VG £7
108 FN £11
108 FN/VFN £16
110 G/VG £6.50
111 FN £18
112 FN/VFN £9
115 FN £6.50
120 FN £6
121 VF/NM £6
127 VFN £4.95
137 VF/NM £6
138 VFN £5.50
141 VF/NM £6

DAREDEVIL

2 VG £75
2 VG+ £85
9 FN/VFN £27
10 FN £24
10 VG £16
11 VG- £11
11 VG £12
13 FN £21
13 VG £9
14 VG/FN £12
14 VG £10
17 FN/VF £23
18 FN/VFN £15
19 VG £7
20 FN £13
22 VF/FN £7.95
24 VG/FN £7.95
25 VG/FN £7.95
25 FN £9
26 FN £9
27 VG/FN £6.75
30 FN £9
32 FN £8.50
33 FN/VFN £9.50
33 VFN £10
34 FN/VFN £9.50
35 VF/NM £12
36 VFN £10
37 VG £4.95

DAREDEVIL

37 FN £7.50
38 VG £4.95
39 VG/FN £5.50
41 FN £5.50
42 VF/NM £9.50
43 VF/NM £9.50
44 FN/VFN £7
44 VFN £8.50
45 FN/VFN £7
46 FN £5.50
46 VFN £8.50
47 VFN £8.50
48 VG/FN £4.95
48 FN/VFN £7.50
49 VG/FN £4.95
50 FN £7.50
50 VFN £8.50
51 FN £7.50
51 VF/NM £11
52 VFN- £10
61 FN £2.95
62 FN £2.95
66 VFN £3.95
70 VFN £3.95
100 FN/VFN £7.50
131 VF/NM £7.50
159 FN £5.50
168 FN £7.50
175 Miller £3.50
179,180 Miller ... £2.95
185-187 Miller ... £1.95
190 GS,Miller £2.50
194,195,202-205 . £1.25
211,216,218 .... £1.25
219 Miller script .. £1.50
223 ..... £1.50
226 Miller script .. £2.95
230 Miller/Maz ... £1.95
235,247 ..... £0.95
236 Barry Smith .. £1.00
237,240,242,245 . £0.95
251 ..... £1.50
252 GS,Fall Mut .. £1.95
257 VF/NM £12.50
258 Ron Lim £1.00
263-269,273,274 . £0.95
277-287,289,294 . £0.95
295 ..... £1.25
301-309,311-317 . £0.95

DR.STRANGE VOL.1

169 FN £30
169 FN/VFN £36
170 VF/NM £16
171 VF/NM £16
171 VFN £14
171 FN/VFN £11
171 FN £9.50
172 VFN £14
173 VFN/NM £16
173 VFN £14
173 FN/VFN £11
174 VFN £14
174 FN+ £10
175 VFN/NM £16
176 VFN+ £15
176 FN £9.50
177 VG/FN £6.50
177 FN £9.50
178 VFN/NM £15
178 VFN £13.50
181 VFN £13.50
182 FN/VFN £9.50
183 FN £9.50
183 VF/NM £15

FANTASTIC FOUR

Annual 6 VG/FN ... £7
20 VG £38
21 G £15
25 VG £60
26 G/VG £48
28 G/VG £20
29 FN £20
(3/4" high felt-tip 'S' on cover)
30 FN £20
(3/4" high felt-tip 'S' on cover)
42 FN £13
43 FN/VFN £14
44 FN £11
46 VG £9
51 VFN £19.50
52 G £5.50
52 VG/FN £15
52 FN/VFN £26
53 VG/FN £11
53 VF/FN £12

FANTASTIC FOUR

54 G £4.95
55 FN £12
56 VFN £23
60 G £4.50
60 G/VG £6
60 VF/NM £23
61 VG £6
62 G/VG £4.50
62 VFN £11
62 VF/NM £16
63 G/VG £4
63 VG £4.95
63 VG/FN £6
63 VF/NM £16
64 G/VG £4
64 VG £4.95
64 FN/VFN £10
65 FN £9
65 VFN £11
66 VG- £12.95
66 VG/FN £23
66 FN/VFN £30
67 VG £15
68 VG/FN £6.50
68 FN £8.50
(creased cover)
69 FN/VFN £9.50
69 VF/NM £16
70 G/VG £4
70 FN £7.50
71 FN/VFN £8.50
72 FN £6.50
72 VFN £11
74 VG/FN £4.95
74 FN £7
75 VG/FN £4.95
75 FN (loose centre) .. £6
76 VG/FN £4.95
78 FN £6.50
78 VFN £8.50
78 VF/NM £10
79 FN £7.50
79 VF/NM £10
81 FN/VFN £6.50
82 FN/VFN £6.50
83 FN/VFN £6.50
87 FN £5.25
87 FN/VFN £6
87 VF/NM £8
88 VFN £8
93 VFN £6.50
95 FN £3.95
102 VF/NM £8
108 FN/VFN £4.95
109 ..... £3.25
109 VFN £4.50
109 VF/NM £5
110 VFN £5.95
123 VFN £6
146 ..... £2.50
176 ..... £1.95
209,215-217,220 . £1.95
227,228 ..... £1.00
237 Byrne £1.50
248,248 Byrne ... £1.50
258,272 Byrne ... £1.00
282 LD,Byrne £1.25

FANTASTIC FOUR

294-295 ..... £0.95
296 part B.W.Smith £1.25
297-301,304 .... £0.95
306-308,315 .... £0.95
319 GS £1.00
320-325 ..... £0.95
326-332,337 .... £0.95
338,342,343 Simon £0.95
355-357 ..... £0.95
358 GS,Anniver .. £1.75
363-365 ..... £0.95
366-368,370 .... £0.95
375 GS, Foil cover £2.00

GHOST RIDER VOL.1

3 FN £6.00

GHOST RIDER VOL.2

2 VF/NM £9.50
3 VF/NM £7.50
4 VF/NM £12.50
5 FN £5.50
5 VF/NM £8
6 VF/NM £6.00

HULK

King size special 1 FN £8
King size special 2 VG £6
102 FN+ £50
107 FN/VFN £15
122 FN £5.95
330 VFN £11
331 FN £4.95
332 VF/NM £5.50
333 VF/NM £4.95
337 VF/NM £4.95
340 VG/FN £9
340 FN £12.50
345 VF/NM £4.50
367 FN £5.50
367 VF/NM £10
368 VF/NM £7.50
369 VF/NM £7.50
369 VF/NM £4.95
370 VF/NM £4.95
372 VF/NM £9
377 VFN £8.50
377 VF/NM £10

IRON MAN

1 FN £105
1 VFN £125
2 VG £18
2 VFN £48
3 VG £14
3 VFN £36
3 VF/NM £39
4 VG £8.50
4 FN £15
5 VG £8.50
5 FN/VFN £20
5 VFN £24
7 VG £8
7 FN £14
7 VFN £18
7 VF/NM £20
8 VG £8
8 VFN £16
9 VG/FN £9

IRON MAN

9 VF/NM £18
10 VF/NM £16
11 VG £6
11 FN/VFN £14
12 VG £6
12 VG/FN £8
13 VG £6
13 FN £12
14 VG £6
15 VG £6
15 VF/NM £14
16 VG/FN £4.95
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19 VG/FN £4.95
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20 FN £6
21 FN/VFN £4.95
21 VFN £6.50
22 FN £6
23 FN £6
24 FN/VFN £7.50
25 VG/FN £4.95
25 FN £4.95
26 FN £6
26 VFN £6.50
27 VFN- £6.50
28 FN/VFN £6.50
28 VFN £7
29 FN £6
29 VFN £7
30 FN £6
30 FN/VFN £6.50
31 NM £8
32 VFN £7.50
33 VG/FN £4.95
34 VFN- £7
35 FN- £5.50
36 FN £6
37 FN £6
37 VFN £7.50
39 VG/FN £4.95
40 VFN £7
41 VFN £7
42 FN £6
43 FN £4.95
45 VFN £4.95
46 VFN £4.95
49 FN/VFN £4.50
50 FN £3.95
53 VFN £4.50
53 VF/NM £4.95
56 VFN- £8

IRON MAN & SUB-MARINER

1 VG/FN £30
1 VG £28

LONGSHOT M/S

1 VF/NM £8

MARVEL SUPERHEROES

1 VG £17
14 FN £28
14 FN/VFN £36
16 VG £16
68 FN/VFN £12.50

MARVEL TALES

6 VFN £5.50

MARVEL TEAM-UP

53 VF/NM £6.50
(Byrne X-Men)

NEW MUTANTS

87 VF/NM £25
(1st printing)
88 VF/NM £8.50
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91 VF/NM £6
93 VFN £7
94 VF/NM £7.50
95 FN £4.60
95 VFN £5.50
96 VFN £5.50
97 VF/NM £4.95
98 VF/NM £6
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121 FN £12
121 FN+ £13
123 VG/FN £13
124 VG £7.50
125 VG £7.50
128 VG+ £7.95
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43 VG/FN £55
45 G £23
45 G/VG £25
47 VG £26
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48 VG+ £28
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50 G £10
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53 G £8
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56 poor £2.95
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15 FN £28
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19 G £8
19 FN £18
20 VG £14
20 VG- £12
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21 FN £18
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132 FN/VFN £4.25
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RANSON NOTES

A monthly column in which leading comics artist Arthur Ranson examines the social impact, artistic content and foibles of contemporary comics and their creators.

AS YOU know I usually dash these things off while my sports car is held up at traffic lights. This month it has been more difficult. Two events, attending a lecture and reading a graphic-novel, seem somehow connected and my problem has been to clarify the relationship and how each effects the other.

The lecture was 'Robert McKee's Story Structure'. You may have seen Robert McKee introducing a series of films on BBC2 or in Channel 4's 'Without Walls' making a claim for *Citizen Kane* being one of the world's most over-rated movies — a programme that won McKee a BAFTA Award.

An American living in England, McKee has an international reputation as a man who knows film technique and structure. He has been an actor, director, script consultant and screen-writer for film, TV and stage, both here and in the 'States. And more.

The lecture was over three days and it is a measure of McKee's personality and delivery that not once did I become aware of my sitting muscle. He was entertaining, inspirational and very informative. The content was the analysis of classic story structure. (Journalist Rosie, a fellow attender who had done Eng.Lit. at university, told me that this was not original stuff but agreed that its presentation made it graspable, pertinent and alive).

While recognising other forms of narrative, McKee claimed that the classical structure was the most enduring and that it mirrored our perception of the structure of life. It had the following ingredients — a single and active protagonist, it is told in continuous time, has causality, inter-connectedness, self-consistent reality, an emphasis on external conflict and — unlike life — a closed ending that satisfies the emotional needs of the audience.

The traditional quest story is an example. The story proceeds through a series of events. An initiating event provokes a reaction from the protagonist. This has effects that require further stronger responses as the protagonist seeks to achieve the goal that circumstances have made desirable. The significance of the choices made, based on an internal value system and the acts they inspire, increases as the pressure of events increase and require each action to become more extreme. The greater the extremity the more revealing and meaningful the choices. Classically, the story moves through at least three acts, three reversals or turning points, before a resolution, that satisfies the emotional needs aroused in the audience. Less than three acts and you have an anecdote or portrayal. A full story requires connected and cross influencing events with a spine of a major objective, motive, meaning.

McKee has been accused of producing a formula for screen-writing but his choice of illustrations — *Terminator*, through *Groundhog Day* to *Casablanca* — belie this.

He is interested in audiences. McKee wants the audience to be satisfied, to ask "how will this turn out?", "what will he do now?", "what next?", "will she make it?' and have these questions and concerns dealt with convincingly. He wants them to know all they need to, by being shown not told. Audiences should not be cheated or underestimated. They buy a book or a ticket or a comic, with expectations that should be fulfilled — if in unexpected ways.

Writers, as the only collaborative artists who start with a blank sheet, are highly regarded by Mr. McKee. But if they neglect the audience they are failing in their mission.

All I've said here is positively homeopathic in its dilution from thirty hours of lecture but I trust it holds. Additional topics included Narrative Drive, The Centre of Good, Set-Ups and Pay-Offs, Sub-Plots, Sub-Text, Dramatizing Exposition and Image Systems. Great stuff.

James Herbert wrote and Ian Miller drew **The City**, a graphic novel recently published by Pan.

Herbert, famous for best-seller horror novels, wrote and story-boarded this tale specifically for this format. It concerns an armoured being entering a bizarre derelict city where Man survives wretchedly alongside the dominant life-form, Rats.

In 48 pages there are two significant events. Dialogue and captions are badly lettered and, though few, often unnecessary — being of the (first box:) "the traveller..." (next box:) "journeys on..." (next box:) "onwards..." variety. The story fails many of the classical story strictures. Its setting lacks sense or consistency. The reader does not really know what is going on. Events occur without relevance. Things happen but since nothing changes, nothing happens. This is more like an introductory chapter than a complete story.

Technically, from a purist's point of view, the art too lacks consistency. Ian Miller is a famous fantasy illustrator, with many book jackets and a spell in Hollywood behind him. He draws with ink using a fine nib and brush and a rapidograph pen. He colours with both transparent and solid colour over the ink — he sometimes draws with colour, then inks over the colour. The loose drawing of some figures and background contrast with other meticulous, fantastic and elaborate costume and architecture. His marks are sometimes rigidly controlled, sometimes feverish. The whole is given consistency, however, by the strength of his visual imagination and his obsessiveness. The main figure drawing, reminiscent of medieval painting in its construction, gives a feeling of predetermination that enhances the straight line narrative. A sense of inevitability attaches to the hero walking past ruined buildings and people. Odd bits of drawing are open to criticism but the tortured configuration of the landscape, the expressionism of faces and figures, the grotesquery, the inventiveness, the authority of the personal vision overcome reservations. This book is something to remember.

So, I ask myself, where does this leave McKee's criteria? **The City** fails most of them but is an intriguing read that leaves a mental residue. By classical story standards it should not be so successful. One in the eye for McKee, I thought.

Then I thought. Success in what sense?

At almost £8.00, it is worth two cinema tickets, three horror paperbacks, or eight classical novel reprints. So will it be a commercial success? Will Pan commission more? Will it sell to comic fans, horror fans, reach or create a wider audience? An artistic success? The story and art do combine to give a macabre sense of occasion — but will it enhance comic-books reputation? Will it influence the comics media or broaden its appeal or range? Will it inspire other creators?

I reviewed the book with the lecture in mind and rethought the lecture in the light of the book. I'm still doing that.

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***Arthur Ranson** is one of the UK's top comics artists. In the 1970s, he started work at **Look-In** and for many years drew a wide range of TV and pop-related strips.*

*It is a mark of his versatility that, having won popular and critical acclaim for Danger Mouse, he went on to achieve the same with **2000AD**'s Anderson: Psi Division and his first US work, **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight - Tao**.*

*His **Buttonman** graphic novel is now available in all good comic shops.*

COMICS ECONOMICS

The direct sale market now represents over 85% of US comics publishers sales revenue. The following shows the top titles ordered through the four leading UK & US direct sales distributors. As such it does not reflect retail sales, but instead total orders placed by traders anticipating their retail sales three months ahead. *compiled by Phil Hall*

Direct Market trade order charts: June 1994 titles

Titan Distributors (UK) Top 50 Titles

1	X-Men 35 ($1.50)	Marvel	26	Deadpool II #1 ($2.50)	Marvel
2	Uncanny X-Men 315 ($1.50)	Marvel	27	Lobo in the Chair ($1.95)	DC
3	Sandman 63 ($1.95)	DC	28	Spider-Man 2099 #22 ($1.50)	Marvel
4	X-Force 37 ($1.50)	Marvel	29	Daredevil 330 ($1.50)	Marvel
5	X-Factor 105 ($1.50)	Marvel	30	Superman Man of Steel 36 ($1.50)	DC
6	Wolverine 84 ($1.95)	Marvel	31	Superman 92 ($1.50)	DC
7	Violator 2 ($1.95)	Image	32	Lobo 8 ($1.75)	DC
8	Legends/Dark Knight 63 ($1.75)	DC	33	Adventures/Superman 515 ($1.50)	DC
9	Cyclops/Phoenix 4 ($2.95)	Marvel	34	Action Comics 702 ($1.50)	DC
10	Batman 510 ($1.50)	DC	35	Gen-13 #5 ($2.50)	Image
11	Pitt 5 ($1.95)	Image	36	Catwoman 13 ($1.75)	DC
12	Batman/Punisher ($4.95)	DC	37	Deathblow 6 ($1.95)	Image
13	Previews vol 4 #6 ($2.00)	Diamond	38	Robin 9 ($1.50)	DC
14	Detective Comics 677 ($1.50)	DC	39	Spider-Man 49 ($1.95)	Marvel
15	Hellblazer 80 ($1.75)	DC	40	Marvels 0 ($2.95)	Marvel
16	X-Men 2099 #11 ($1.50)	Marvel	41	Shade the Changing Man 50 ($2.95)	DC
17	Shadow of the Bat 30 ($1.75)	DC	42	Avengers 377 ($1.50)	Marvel
18	Excalibur 80 ($1.95)	Marvel	43	Stormwatch 10 ($2.50)	Image
19	Cyberforce 6 ($1.95)	Image	44	Adventures/Superman Ann 6 ($2.95)	DC
20	Incredible Hulk 420 ($1.50)	Marvel	45	Books of Magic 4 ($1.95)	DC
21	Cable 14 ($2.00)	Marvel	46	Force Works 2 ($1.50)	Marvel
22	Martha Washington 2 (2.95)	Dark Horse	47	Aliens: Stronghold 2 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
23	Judge Dredd 1 ($1.95)	DC	48	Superboy 7 ($1.50)	DC
24	Fantastic Four 391 ($1.50)	Marvel	49	Savage Dragon 11 ($1.95)	Image
25	Amazing Spider-Man 392 ($1.50)	Marvel	50	Colonial Marines 10 ($2.50)	Dark Horse

First Choice Wholesale (UK) Top 50 Titles

1	Judge Dredd 1 ($1.95)	DC	26	Vamps 1 ($1.95)	DC
2	X-Men 35 ($1.50)	Marvel	27	Daredevil 331 ($1.50)	Marvel
3	Uncanny X-Men 315 ($1.50)	Marvel	28	Superman Man of Steel 36 ($1.50)	DC
4	Violator 2 ($1.95)	Image	29	Books of Magic 4 ($1.95)	DC
5	Legends/Dark Knight 63 ($1.95)	DC	30	Aliens Stronghold 2 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
6	Batman/Punisher ($4.95)	DC	31	Fantastic Four 391 ($1.50)	Marvel
7	Detective Comics 677 ($1.50)	DC	32	Excalibur 80 ($1.95)	Marvel
8	Wolverine 84 ($1.75)	Marvel	33	X-Men 2099 #11 ($1.50)	Marvel
9	Sandman 63 ($1.95)	DC	34	Cable 14 ($2.00)	Marvel
10	X-Force 37 ($1.50)	Marvel	35	Star Wars Droids 3 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
11	Batman 510 ($1.50)	DC	36	Superman 92 ($1.50)	DC
12	X-Factor 105 ($1.50)	Marvel	37	Adventures/Superman 515 ($1.50)	DC
13	Shadow of the Bat 29 ($1.75)	DC	38	ST DS9 Hearts & Minds 1 (1.95)	Malibu
14	Pitt 5 ($1.95)	Image	39	Action Comics 702 ($1.50)	DC
15	Lobo in the Chair ($1.95)	DC	40	Amazing Spider-Man 392 ($1.50)	Marvel
16	Hellblazer 80 ($1.95)	DC	41	Superboy 7 ($1.50)	DC
17	A New Hope 1 ($2.50)	Dark Horse	42	Cyberforce 6 ($1.95)	Image
18	Marvels 0 ($2.95)	Marvel	43	Deadpool II #1 ($2.50)	Marvel
19	Catwoman 13 ($1.50)	DC	44	Force Works 2 ($1.50)	Marvel
20	Itchy & Scratchy 3 ($1.95)	Bongo	45	Spider-Man 49 ($1.95)	Marvel
21	Incredible Hulk 420 ($1.50)	Marvel	46	Rune 5 ($1.95)	Malibu
22	Lobo 8 ($1.75)	DC	47	Drama ($3.95)	Sirius
23	Cyclops & Phoenix 4 ($2.95)	Marvel	48	Martha Washington 2 (2.95)	Dark Horse
24	Radioactive Man 4 ($1.95)	Bongo	49	Savage Dragon 11 ($1.95)	Image
25	Robin 9 ($1.50)	DC	50	Steel 7 ($1.50)	DC

Diamond Distributors (US) Top 50 Titles

1	X-Men 35 ($1.50)	Marvel	26	Kindred 4 ($1.95)	Image
2	Uncanny X-Men 315 ($1.50)	Marvel	27	Beavis & Butt-Head 6 ($1.95)	Marvel
3	Violator 2 ($1.95)	Image	28	Chaos Effect Alpha (free)	Valiant
4	Wolverine 84 ($1.95)	Marvel	29	Stormwatch 10 ($1.95)	Image
5	Pitt 5 ($1.95)	Image	30	Robin 9 ($1.50)	DC
6	Gen-13 #5 ($2.50)	Image	31	Venom Nights/Vengeance (2.95)	Marvel
7	MM Power Rangers 1 ($1.95)	Hamilton	32	Adventures/Superman Ann 6 ($2.95)	DC
8	X-Force 37 ($1.50)	Marvel	33	Catwoman 13 ($1.75)	DC
9	Batman/Punisher ($4.95)	DC	34	Deathblow 6 ($1.95)	Image
10	Batman 510 ($1.50)	DC	35	Spider-Man 49 ($1.95)	Marvel
11	Superman 92 ($1.50)	DC	36	Cable 14 ($2.00)	Marvel
12	Cyberforce 6 ($1.95)	Image	37	Fantastic Four 391 ($1.50)	Marvel
13	Adventures/Superman 515 ($1.50)	DC	38	Superboy 7 ($1.50)	DC
14	Superman Man of Steel 36 ($1.50)	DC	39	Savage Dragon 11 ($1.95)	Image
15	Legends/Dark Knight 63 ($1.75)	DC	40	Supreme 13 ($2.50)	Image
16	X-Men 2099 #11 ($1.50)	Marvel	41	Union 0 ($2.50)	Image
17	Action Comics 702 ($1.50)	DC	42	Green Lantern 54 ($1.50)	DC
18	Detective Comics 677 ($1.50)	DC	43	Codename: Strykeforce 5 ($1.95)	Image
19	X-Factor 105 ($1.50)	Marvel	44	Spider-Man 2099 #22 ($1.50)	Marvel
20	Cyclops/Phoenix 4 ($2.95)	Marvel	45	Incredible Hulk 420 ($1.50)	Marvel
21	Deadpool II #1 ($2.50)	Marvel	46	Supreme 14 ($2.50)	Image
22	Youngblood 6 ($3.50)	Image	47	Excalibur 80 ($1.95)	Marvel
23	Marvels 0 ($2.95)	Marvel	48	Brigade 26 ($2.50)	Image
24	Shadow of the Bat 30 ($1.75)	DC	49	Sandman 63 ($1.95)	DC
25	Amazing Spider-Man 392 ($1.50)	Marvel	50	Team Youngblood 10 ($1.95)	Image

Capital City Distribution (US) Top 50 Titles

1	X-Men 35 ($1.50)	Marvel	26	Venom Nights/Vengeance 1 (2.95)	Marvel
2	Uncanny X-Men 315 ($1.50)	Marvel	27	Robin 7 ($1.50)	DC
3	Wolverine 84 ($1.95)	Marvel	28	Catwoman 13 ($1.75)	DC
4	Violator 2 ($1.95)	Image	29	Spider-Man 49 ($1.95)	Marvel
5	Pitt 5 ($1.95)	Image	30	Stormwatch 10 ($1.95)	Image
6	Cyberforce 6 ($1.95)	Image	31	Cable 14 ($2.00)	Marvel
7	Batman 510 ($1.50)	DC	32	Superboy 7 ($1.50)	DC
8	Batman/Punisher ($4.95)	DC	33	Fantastic Four 391 ($1.50)	Marvel
9	X-Force 37 ($1.50)	Marvel	34	Deathblow 6 ($1.95)	Image
10	Deadpool II #1 ($2.50)	Marvel	35	Adventures/Superman Ann 6 ($2.95)	DC
11	Legends/Dark Knight 63 ($1.75)	DC	36	Hulk 420 ($1.50)	Marvel
12	Marvels 0 ($2.95)	Marvel	37	Green Lantern 54 ($1.50)	DC
13	Detective Comics 677 ($1.50)	DC	38	Savage Dragon 11 ($1.95)	Image
14	Superman 92 ($1.50)	DC	39	Force Works 2 ($1.50)	Marvel
15	Superman Man of Steel 36 ($1.50)	DC	40	Spider-Man 2099 #22 ($1.50)	Marvel
16	X-Men 2099 #11 ($1.50)	Marvel	41	Codename Stryke Force 5 ($1.95)	Image
17	Adventures/Superman 515 ($1.50)	DC	42	Excalibur 80 ($1.95)	Marvel
18	X-Factor 105 ($1.50)	Marvel	43	Sandman 63 ($1.95)	DC
19	Action Comics 702 ($1.50)	DC	44	Steel 7 ($1.50)	DC
20	Cyclops & Phoenix 4 ($2.95)	Marvel	45	Supreme 13 ($2.50)	Image
21	Youngblood 6 ($3.50)	Image	46	Union 0 ($2.50)	Image
22	Amazing Spider-Man 392 ($1.50)	Marvel	47	Team Youngblood 10 ($2.50)	Image
23	Shadow of the Bat 30 ($1.75)	DC	48	Ninjak 8 ($2.25)	Valiant
24	Beavis & Butt-Head 6 ($1.95)	Marvel	49	Brigade 10 ($1.95)	Image
25	Kindred 4 ($1.95)	Image	50	Supreme 14 ($2.50)	Image

Comics International Top 50: June 1994

WHILE the facing page's charts for the two major US distributors and their UK equivalents throw up interesting differences between buying trends in each country, to overview the total ordering, **Comics International** produces its own top fifty chart. The only combined chart in the industry.

Taking the order levels from each company and factoring in the size of each operation, we are able to produce a chart reflecting the entire month with far greater accuracy than those produced for the record, film or book industry.

As always, this represents the trade orders for titles — meaning retailers believe they can sell the books they are ordering. Whether consumers choose to buy them is a different matter. (Key: re = re-entry)

1	(2)	X-Men 35 ($1.50)	Marvel
2	(4)	Uncanny X-Men 315 ($1.50)	Marvel
3	(=)	Violator 2 ($1.95)	Image
4	(7)	Wolverine 84 ($1.95)	Marvel
5	(re)	Pitt 5 ($1.95)	Image
6	(8)	Batman 510 ($1.50)	DC
7	(11)	X-Force 37 ($1.50)	Marvel
8	(new)	Batman/Punisher: Lake of Fire ($4.95)	DC
9	(17)	Cyberforce 7 ($1.95)	Image
10	(25)	Legends of the Dark Knight 63 ($1.75)	DC
11	(12)	Superman 91 ($1.50)	DC
12	(14)	Adventures of Superman 515 ($1.50)	DC
13	(=)	Action Comics 702 ($1.50)	DC
14	(9)	Superman Man of Steel 36 ($1.50)	DC
15	(re)	Marvels 0 ($2.95)	Marvel
16	(15)	X-Men 2099 #11 ($1.50)	Marvel
17	(10)	Adventures/Cyclops & Phoenix 4 ($2.95)	Marvel
18	(19)	Detective Comics 677 ($1.50)	DC
19	(new)	Deadpool II #1 ($2.50)	Marvel
20	(16)	X-Factor 105 ($1.50)	Marvel
21	(24)	Shadow of the Bat 30 ($1.75)	DC
22	(re)	Youngblood 6 ($3.50)	Image
23	(21)	Amazing Spider-Man 392 ($1.50)	Marvel
24	(33)	Kindred 4 ($2.50)	Image
25	(22)	Beavis & Butt-Head 5 ($1.95)	Marvel
26	(39)	Venom: Nights of Vengeance 1 ($2.95)	Marvel
27	(=)	Stormwatch 10 ($1.95)	Image
28	(26)	Robin 9 ($1.50)	DC
29	(30)	Catwoman 13 ($1.75)	DC
30	(32)	Spider-Man 49 ($1.95)	Marvel
31	(26)	Cable 13 ($2.00)	Marvel
32	(34)	Deathblow 6 ($1.95)	Image
33	(new)	Adventures of Superman Annual 6 ($2.95)	DC
34	(46)	Fantastic Four 391 ($1.50)	Marvel
35	(29)	Superboy 8 ($1.50)	DC
36	(45)	Incredible Hulk 420	Marvel
37	(=)	Green Lantern 54 ($1.50)	DC
38	(re)	Savage Dragon 11 ($1.95)	Image
39	(40)	Spider-Man 2099 #21 ($1.50)	Marvel
40	(42)	Codename: Stryke Force 5 ($1.95)	Image
41	(43)	Excalibur 80 ($1.95)	Marvel
42	(44)	Sandman 63 ($1.95)	DC
43	(re)	Supreme 13 ($2.50)	Image
44	(re)	Union 0 ($2.50)	Image
45	(new)	Chaos Effect Alpha Edition (free)	Valiant
46	(re)	Supreme 14 ($2.50)	Image
47	(49)	Brigade 26 ($2.50)	Image
48	(=)	Team Youngblood 10 ($2.50)	Image
49	(23)	Force Works 2 ($1.50)	Marvel
50	(41)	Steel 7 ($1.50)	DC

Marvel Comics failed to repeat its previous high percentage of the chart, despite over 65% of its charting titles having placed higher this month than last in a chart with little change from last month. Again it holds only four of the top 10 (although The Punisher's crossover with Batman can be counted as a bonus for the publisher).

X-Men titles seem to be dividing into two camps, the consistant sellers: **X-Men**, **Uncanny X-Men**, **Wolverine** and **X-Force** and the second string titles which have struggled to remain steady in a consolidating market. It is interesting to note that out of the ten mutant titles in the top 50, the top four titles are the only ones still edited by Bob Harras. **X-Factor**, Marvel's yo-yo title, has dropped down the charts and **Excalibur** continues its steady climb up the charts — this month reaching position #41.

Wolverine continues to rise up the chart and this is the sixth consecutive month that the former X-Man has maintained his upward trend. The popularity of the book could be due to Wolverine's absence from the X-titles, but Adam Kubert and Mark Farmer's art on the book may also have been a contributing factors.

Marvel's highest new entry (at #19) is the second **Deadpool** mini series, featuring Mark (**Legionnaires**) Waid's first script for Marvel.

The Fantastic Four's recent revelations in its title has led to the book charting its highest ever position (#34), and with the final installment of *Nobody Gets Out Alive* next month expect it to chart even higher.

As predicted last issue, **The Incredible Hulk** drop last month was due largely to the fill-in artist (who proved to be more than adequate). **Hulk** is back up in the chart, placing at #36 and should be returning to the top 30 over the coming months.

Proving the mini's success, **Marvels** #0 has succeeded in placing the highest of the entire series even though it is an "add-on" with only a reprint of the story which ran in **Marvel Age** plus pin-ups.

Venom's continuing run of three issue mini-series has propelled the character back up the chart with the start of his latest story arc. Arguably, the **Venom** limited series of comics is nothing more than a marketing ploy for a highly priced ongoing title yet the first issues prove it a successful approach as they never fail to win a high ranking.

DC Comics maintains its 32% share of the top 50 for the third consecutive month and has now gone seven months without losing ground to Marvel. **Batman**, currently involved in the final chapters of his year long storyline pips Superman for top honours this month. **Batman** #510 charts at its highest position in the Comics Economics 50 and the **Batman/Punisher** team up and **Legends of the Dark Knight** (with its penultimate *Knightsend* episode) help the Dark Knight to win three top ten places. Every single Bat-family title charted inside the top 30.

Superman is not sliding far, despite an overall poorer performance this month. *The Fall of Metropolis* storyline consolidated the Man of Steel's appeal and after nearly two years back in the top half of the chart it looks like he's here to stay.

Steel has remained in the chart on the strength of the DC/Milestone crossover, **Worlds Collide**, even though the armoured superhero scrapes in at #50 and is likely to be a casualty next month.

Green Lantern is still hanging in there and was one of five non-movers this month. Not a bad performance considering the strong showing from Image over the last two months.

Sandman continues the upwards climb, thanks largely to the comics' performances in the UK charts, although both Diamond and Capital have the Neil Gaiman title featuring consistently in the lower half of their own charts.

Image Comics should be elated at their performance this month despite neither of their top two titles being scheduled to ship. Both **Spawn** and **WildC.A.T.s** are on skip months, but despite this the California-based company remains on 28% of the top 50 share.

Cyberforce continues its steady progress up the charts and creeps back into the top ten, while Marc Silvestri's other title **Codename: Strykeforce** has moved up a further 2 places and is now at #40.

Savage Dragon bounces back into the charts after a skip month and is a re-entry at #38.

Surely the most surprising performance of the month from Image must be the relatively poor showing of the book that started it all. **Youngblood** #6, Rob Liefeld's much vaunted return to drawing full-time comics, could only manage to chart at #22, despite the hyperbole and massive advertising campaign. Couple this with the ever decreasing share of the chart that (up to this month) Extreme studios were showing, perhaps Liefeld has become yesterday's man.

Violator #2 remains constant this month at #3 and Dale Keown's **Pitt**, after a couple of months absence, has returned to the chart and a high position (#5). Keown's Hulk clone is proving (when released) to be more successful than any other Image title except **Spawn**, and this is the title's fifth consecutive top 6 placing.

Valiant has maintained its one-title share this month, due to a giveaway comic, although **Ninjak** 8 lurks just below at position 51. While Valiant continues to outsell its smaller rivals, it has failed to make compete with Marvel, DC and Image. Whether next month's *Chaos Effect* achieves the *Unity* result badly needed remains to be seen, but there is little to indicate that it is likely to reverse the slide.

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General analysis:

The following titles failed to generate enough sales for the top 50: From Marvel: **Spider-Man: Web of Doom** #1, **Blaze** #1, **Spider-Man: Arachnis Project** #1, **New Warriors** #50, **Hulk Annual** #20 and **Punisher/Archie: When Worlds Collide**. From DC: **Superboy Annual** #1, **Judge Dredd** #1, **Aquaman** #1, **Vamps** #1 and **Lobo** #7.

Image titles which failed to place in this month's top 50: **Newmen** #3, **Brigade** #10, **Bloodstrike** #11, **Pact** #3 and **Black Flag Preview Edition**. Valiant failed to chart with any of its *Chaos Effect* crossovers apart from the free prelude edition. NB: Neither **Gen-13** #5 or **Mighty Morphin Power Rangers** #1 are not included in the Comics Economics Top 50 this month but will be included in next month's Top 50 when orders for Capital City and First Choice Wholesale are included.

Independent publishers non-charting major titles:
Dark Horse: **Martha Washington Goes to War** #2 and **Star Wars: Droids** #3.
Malibu Comics: **Star Slammers** #2 (Bravura imprint).

Overview: Ups, Downs and Outs

Titles that dropped out of the chart this month (not including one-shots and concluded mini-series):

	issue #	last month	this month
Daredevil	331	(47)	52
Starwatchers	2	(38)	81

Okay, comic-watchers, here's the summary...

Titles rising: 23
Titles falling: 11
New entries: 4
Re-entries: 7
Non-movers: 5

Highest new entry ..... **Batman/Punisher: Lake of Fire** (DC)
Highest climber **Legends of the Dark Knight** #63 (DC) up 15 places
Biggest drop ..... **Forceworks** #2 (Marvel) down 26 places
Highest re-entry ..... **Pitt** #5 (Image)

Most appearances in top ten:

X-Men & Uncanny X-Men (10 months); **Spawn** (8 months; including the Batman team-up); **WildC.A.T.s** (6 months - all have never featured outside top ten).

Ten month breakdown:

% = number of titles in top 50

	#35	#36	#37	#38	#39	#40	#41	#42	#43	#44
Marvel	36	34	34	38	44	40	48	48	38	38
DC	20	18	18	26	26	28	30	32	32	32
Image	34	32	32	22	18	24	18	18	28	28
Dark Horse	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	0	0
Valiant	6	8	6	8	4	4	2	0	2	2
Malibu	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Defiant	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bongo	0	0	4	4	2	2	2	0	0	0

Publishers' % family of titles shares:

	#35	#36	#37	#38	#39	#40	#41	#42	#43	#44
X-family	20	18	16	18	22	16	20	24	20	20
Super family	10	8	8	14	14	14	16	16	16	14
Batman family	10	6	10	10	10	12	14	12	12	14
Spider family	12	8	8	10	10	12	12	14	10	8
Extreme titles	16	12	12	10	6	8	10	4	6	10

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Comics International invites you to submit your comics-related queries, both for your own enlightenment, and that of our general readership.

Vincenzo Marra,
86 Southbourne Road
Bournemouth, Dorset

Do you know when the following cartoons will be shown on either the BBC or Sky: *The Spectacular Spider-Man* and *The Marvel Action Hour* (featuring The Fantastic Four and Iron Man)?

Also do you know if Marvel will be releasing the X-Men cartoon on video as Channel 4 haven't been able to purchase the rights to air them? As a plea to any reader out there who has Sky and managed to tape all of the 26 **X-Men** episodes, could he/she please contact me.

The good news is that Polygram will be releasing the X-Men videos later this year. Channel 4 lost the rights to screen them, and apparently the BBC are currently negotiating to screen both of the new Marvel animated series and the X-Men series. Watch this space for more details. (Dez)

Michael Duncan,
70 Maryhill Rd, Glasgow

SINCE we are very familiar with the comics output of Britain and America, I was wondering if you could give any information on the comics scene in other English speaking countries. In particular I am interested in Australian and New Zealand comics. Who publishes them what do they produce?

I would also be very grateful on any information on the small press scene and would like to know if there are any artists in Australia or New Zealand who would be able to contribute material to a small press title I am currently working on as I am interested in making it as far reaching as possible in terms of national and culteral influences.

*Eddie Campbell (the Australian-based Scottish producer of **Bacchus**) is producing an ANZac comic for Dark Horse entitled **Down Under**. The first issue is in shops now.*

*On and off, we've been in touch with Australian fandom since Noel Kerr's **Sweet Nothings** of the 1960s. Nostalgia & Comics owner Phil Clarke went to Australia for their annual comics convention last year and, hopefully, some copies of this magazine also travel south of the equator. Either get in touch with Phil, or look out for a reply from an Australian reader in a future issue of **Comivos International**. (Dez)*

Antonio Albanese,
203 Bushbury Lane,
Wolverhampton

As usual, I had missed an issue of the **Incredible Hulk** from my local comic shop, so I waited for the newsstand edition to come along. To my surprise it arrived with a £1.25 price tag. Checking my previous issues, it appears that for a 25 cent price rise in the States, I have been charged 40p extra. The fact that the current exchange rate is £1 = $1.50 seems to have escaped Marvel and Comag. I don't mind being charged for postage, but I don't expect Comag to ship the comics individually. The price increase is particularly confusing, as Comag's price stickers used to be reflective of the dollar to pound exchange rate.

Is this an attempt to pull a fast one, or is it a genuine mistake?

Perhaps reflecting low sales, the price change is deliberate. But unlike the comic shop market, many copies of newsstand titles remain unsold and are pulped. Marvel (who set the price, not the distributor Comag) have obviously chosen to absorb the wastage by increasing the price on copies they sell. But this does mean that a $1.50 import from a comic shop will cost around £1.10 as opposed to waiting two months for newsstand copies priced £1.25.

For the record, newsstand DC (standard format) titles priced $1.50 retail for 70p through Portman Distribution, with no price increase being imminent. (Dez)

Michael Stanwick
22 New Road, Hellingley,
East Sussex

Can you help me identify the identity of the artists on the following Gold Key titles?

Korak Son of Tarzan #6 1st story only. Russ Manning?

#9 complete story. Also Russ Manning? The **Overstreet Guide** says Russ Manning, but I have grave doubts — the style is very similar to but not in my opinion, Russ Manning's.

Korak Son of Tarzan #14 and 16-20 & 23. Artist?

Tarzan of the Apes #177, Manning on the last four pages. Again, very similar to but not Manning on the rest.

Tarzan #188-206, artist?

Mighty Samson #1-20 & 31, artist?

Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea #1 & 2, artist?

If you can help, particularly with the Manning queries, I would be most grateful.

*The easy one first, albeit from memory: Jack Sparling (best known for **Secret Six**) was the **Mighty Samson** artist. On Manning, he did have three now well-known assistants, so look for their styles in the unidentifiable pages: Dave **(Rocketeer)** Stevens, Mike **(Kamandi)** Royer and Dan **(Crossfire)** Spiegle. Spiegle having taken over on **Magnus** after Manning with issue 23. (Dez)*

Following last month's announcement in connection with the Malibu and Bravura premiums, we have begun to receive your completed Bravura Gold Stamp cards for premium editions of **Power & Glory** and **Breed**. Anybody not having the programme card will find one printed in **Comics International** #39 and #41. Alternatively, we have cards available in-house. Simply drop us a line or call 081 444 2002 and we'll mail out the card for your stamps (no charge). Next month, in answer to your questions, we'll be offering **Rune #0** and **Solution #0**, so start collecting your coupons now. ... Dez Skinn (Editor)

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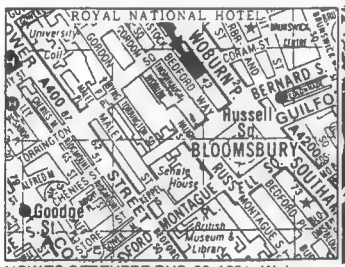

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a ADVANCE LISTINGS

READERS: You can use this Advance Listings section as an order form with your direct sale retailer or mail order supplier. Simply mark the items you require, preferably in red or blue pen or with a highlight marker. Then detach this section of the magazine and return it to your supplier, together with a note of your name, address and phone number and guarantee not missing any of the new titles being published. Certain retailers may not accept standing orders, so check with them first. Using this system will also help your supplier when ordering titles, to know which are presold.

All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Where dollar and sterling prices (ie $1.50/£1) is stated, UK price is not the air-freighted import price, but instead denotes that the title will be nationally distributed approximately ten weeks later at a lower-than-airfreight price. Import prices are usually converted at a rate of $1.00 = 80p.

Shipping dates given are usually one week before airfreight copies arrive with your retailer/mail order supplier. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers. Late shipping, cancellations and changes in content will be detailed in future issues of ***Comics International****.*

Key to abbreviations used:

1 & 2 + 3	=	*Writer & penciller + inker*
sqbd	=	*perbound; squared spine; without staples*
b&w	=	*black & white content*
pc	=	*part-colour content*
hbk	=	*hardback (book) edition*
tpbk	=	*trade paperback, squarebound, comic size*
Xpg	=	*number of interior pages*

V = violence; N = nudity; S = sex

All comics are 32 page colour titles unless stated otherwise

SHIPPING:

JULY-AUG '94

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

Cerebus 184 (Sim & Gerhard) *Mothers and Daughters Book Three — Reads, Part 8.* No information for the current storyline. $2.25

AC COMICS

Femforce 75 (Black & Heike + various) Femforce are in their most dangerous battle yet as they face The Fear Force. . . . . $2.95/$4.95
Good Girl Art Quarterly 16 (various) Ms. Victory, Sky Gal and Cave Girl in seperate stories. $3.95

ANTARCTIC PRESS

Furrlough 19 (anthology) Anthropomorphic tales. b&w $2.75
Gold Digger 13 (Perry) Gina and Cheetah explore the forests of Ireland in search of leprechauns. . . $2.75
Golden Warrior Iczer One 4 (Hirano & Moriki) One of the seven Gods of War attacks the Karura Kingdom. Mature readers. b&w $2.95
Hitomi II: Geohammer 6 (various) Hitomi and company are on the rampage through the streets of New Jersey. $2.75
NEW **Knightmare 1** (Sky Owens) Gerry Keyes holds Earth's destiny in his hands for at least the next 100 years. . . . $2.75
Ninja High School 41 (Dunn) Resolicited from July 1993.b&w . . $2.75
Quagmire USA 3 (Matsuoka) Can Mimi change Kyoko back to her original form? b&w $2.75
Sentai 3 (anthology) Showcase of Japanese live-action TV. Bi-monthly. b&w $2.75

AXIS COMICS

Founder Larry Stroman has announced that Axis Comics has discontinued publication.

BONGO COMICS

Simpsons Comics 5 (Vance & Morrison) *When Bongos Collide, Part 2.* Itchy and Scratchy come to Springfield in the "crossover of the nanosecond". $2.25

CALIBER PRESS

Deadworld 12 (Thayer & Winfrey) The cave people attempt to fend off the advance of the zombies. $2.95
NEW **Dominique 1** (Moore & Gonzales + Bishop) Originally seen in **Dark Horse Presents**. Dominique is happy until her inveterate grifter parents arrive on the scene. b&w $2.95
Negative Burn 13 (various) Features *Mr Mamoulian* (Bolland); Alan Moore's *Songbook*, with art by Neil Gaiman; *Mile & Cheese* (Dorkin); *Strangers in Paradise* (Terry Moore) Mature readers. b&w $3.95
Realm 10 (Truax & Kowalski + Johnston) Lady Falla devises her treacherous plot against Lord Darkoth. $2.95

CARTOON BOOKS

Bone 15 (Smith) Bone learns the secret of Phoney Bone's mysterious link to the Rat Creatures. b&w $2.95

DARK HORSE

SHIPPING JULY 12TH

Aliens: Stronghold 3 (of 4; Arcudi & Mahnke) Can an Alien truly appreciate a hand-rolled, long-filler Cuban cigar? $2.50
NEW **Badger: Zen Pop Funny Animal Version 1** (Baron & Butler + Mayerick) Two-part mini series exploring the split personality of Badger's alter-ego. $2.50
NEW **Concrete: Killer Smile 1** (of 4; Chadwick) Concrete's assistant Larry is kidnapped by a psychotic pyromaniac and the hero must change his attitude to violence. $2.95
Comics' Greatest World: Will To Power 5 (of 12; Warner & Coker) *Steel Harbor.* Titan is really angry and the Wolf Gang are the only thing from preventing him destroying Steel Harbor. $1.00
Dark Horse Presents 87 (anthology) Featuring: *Star Riders* (Gagnon & Martin III); *The Eighth Wonder* (Janes & Plunkett); *Concrete* (Chadwick) b&w $2.50
NEW **Ghost Special 1** (Luke & Haley + Simmons) One-shot featuring the ethereal female spirit of vengeance. $3.95
Indiana Jones and the Golden Fleece 2 (Rawson + McGreal & Hooper + Woch) Concluding part finds Indy up to his neck in Na$$.50
Out of the Vortex 10 (Barrett & Willis & Magyar) The Vortex and Division 13 face the fury of the creatures from Block 13. . . . . $2.00
The Shadow Movie Adaptation 2 (Kaluta) Adaptation of the movie tells of Shadow's first meeting with arch-rival Shiwan Khan. $2.50

SHIPPING JULY 19TH

Comics' Greatest World: Will To Power 6 (Warner & Coker + Garvey) No one can stop the hero gone mad as Titan beats everybody and everything thrown at him. . . $1.00
NEW **Badger: Shattered Mirror 1** (Baron & Thompson) New four part series which explores yet another possible origin for the multi-faceted Norbert Sykes. $2.50
Devil Chef (Pollack) One-shot featuring a cook who's soul becomes property of the devil. $2.50
Grendel Tales: Devil in our Midst 3 (of 5; Seagle & Mireault + Grist + Delaney) The new Grendel is offered sanctuary at a deserted ice station but the inhabitants are threatening to kill him. Mature readers. . . . $2.95
Jonny Demon 3 (Busiek & Vokes) Jonny goes to Hell to stop the storm of a Thousand Shadows. . . $2.50
Martha Washington Goes to War 3 (of 5; Miller & Gibbons) Martha Washington journeys to the Radioactive Zone and is amazed to find the inhabitants almost lovable. Mature readers. $2.95
Star Wars: Droids 4 (of 6; Thorsland & Hughes) The events which led to the droids meeting Luke Skywalker are finally revealed. $2.50
Time Cop Movie Adaptation 2 (of 2; Verheiden & Randall) Adapting the film produced by Dark Horse Comics (due for a summer release). $2.50

SHIPPING JULY 26TH

NEW **Babe 1** (Byrne) Babe finds herself washed up on a Californian beach and finds herself at the mercy of unscrupulous Hollywood agents. $2.50
Classic Star Wars: A New Hope 2 (Thomas & Chaykin + Leialoha) Reprinted from the original Marvel **Star Wars** series. Cover: Adam Hughes. 64pg $3.95
Dark Horse Comics 23 (anthology) *Aliens; Mondo Pest* (Gilroy & Carmen); *The Machine* (Luke & Cobb). $2.50
Hellhounds: Panzer Cops 6 (Oshii & Fujiwara) The final episode features a stand-ff at Haneda Airport and an unlikely ending to the series. $2.95
Predator: Invaders From the Fourth Dimension (Prosser & Somerville + Garvey) 1959 and America is in the grip of anti-communism fever. A small boy has seen a Predator arrive in Hollywood, unfortunately the boy has a reputation for crying wolf. . . $2.50
White Like She 3 (Fingerman) Luther, the janitor, discovers the joys of womanhood, while his/her creator gets his hands wet with some new friends. $2.95

SHIPPING AUGUST 2ND

Hammer of God 3 (of 3; Baron & Pensa) Judah versus the Direktor, head of the Gucci assassins. $2.50
NEW **The Mask: The Movie 1** (Richardson & Plunkett + Patterson) Based on the Dark Horse movie. $2.50
NEW **Rascals in Paradise 1** (Silke) Good-girl cheesecake SF set in the Maklay jungle of the 1930s. $3.95
NEW **Shadow Empires: Faith Conquers 1** (Moeller) Four-part Science Fantasy set on Faith, a distant outpost of the planet Hotok. $2.95
NEW **Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi — The Freedon Nadd Uprising 1** (of 2; Veitch & Akins + Rodier) A tale of the Jedi 4000 years before the birth of Luke Skywalker. $2.50
X 6 (Grant & Russell & Wagner + Palmiotti) X can make the most out of the political turmoil in Arcadia. $2.00

DC COMICS

SHIPPING JULY 12TH

Batman 511 (Moench & Manley) Batman comes face to face with a healthy Batgirl as his past begins to to catch up with him, literally. $1.50
Black Orchid 13 (Vertigo; Foreman & Guay + Woch) Black Orchid comes into contact with metatherapy and finds that her influence has vanished. Mature readers. $1.95
Deathstroke, the Terminator 40 (Grant & Hannigan) Deathstroke infiltrates a mob wedding at the request of the bride. $1.95
Flash 94 (Waid & Pacheco + Marzan Jr) Flash becomes involved in a Kobra plot to take over Keystone City, while the *Zero Hour* fast approaches and Flash finds himself in the far future. $1.50
Hardware 19 (Milestone; McDuffie & Ramos + Rollins) Aliens invade Earth thinking Hardware is a renegade alien. Happen's all the time. $1.75
Judge Dredd 2 (Helfer & Oeming) Dredd chases Mickey the Stump through a virtual reality maze. $1.95
Justice League International Quarterly 16 (Kupperberg & various) General Glory's finest battles from the 1950s. $3.50
L.E.G.I.O.N. '94 Annual 5 (Peyer & Mckone + various) Five different takes on the L.E.G.I.O.N. concept including *L.E.G.I.O.N 90210* and *The Man from L.E.G.I.O.N.* 64pg $3.50
Legionnaires 18 (Waid & Gardner + Cramer) *End of an Era, Part 4* (of 6). Time is literally running out as the Legion's deadliest foes unite to aid in the restoring of time. $1.50
Sandman Mystery Theatre 18 (Vertigo; M Wagner + Seagle & Davis) *The Scorpion, Part 2* (of 4). The Golden Age Sandman has to battle a villain with a poison-tipped whipand the killer's next target is Wesley Dodds. Mature readers$1.95
Shade, the Changing Man 51 (Vertigo; Milligan & Phillips) *The Morning of Masks, Part 1* (of 3). Shade commits suicide resulting in the Changing Man's most remarkable incarnation to date. $1.95
The Spectre 22 (Ostrander & Mandrake) Superman has a Presidential order, get the Spectre in line or destroy him. $1.75
Star Trek 63 (Ryan & Whigham + Starr) This episode takes place at the very end of the Enterprise's first five year mission. $1.75
Superboy 8 (Kesel & Grummett + Hazlewood) It had to happen, Superboy meets Superboy in Smallville, except the new kid on the block is no match for the old Superboy. $1.50
Superman: The Man of Steel 37 (L Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) A space craft descends on Smallville,

meanwhile Superman and Batman have a discussion as to what is happening in their universe. $1.50
Valor 23 (Busiek & Doran) *End of an Era, Part 5* (of 6). The final issue finds the Legion joined by a speedy time-misplaced hero, but even his arrival is unlikely to stop the destruction of time. $1.50
Wonder Woman 90 (Priest & Ross) Wonder Woman discovers that Hippolyte has decreed a contest for a new Wonder Woman. $1.50
NEW **Zero Hour: Crisis in Time 4** (of 4, 3, 2, 1, 0; Jurgens & Ordway) The start of the end of the DC Universe as we know it. $1.50

SHIPPING JULY 19TH

Action Comics 6 (Byrne) *Elseworlds Annual.* Superman born in the 18th century is recruited to help George Washington in the 1776 war of Independence. $2.95
Batman: Shadow of the Bat 31 (Grant & Blevins) *Zero Hour* dawns and with it comes Alfred Pennyworth to the Batcave with dreams of becoming a detective. $1.95
The Demon 51 (Ennis & McCrea) Merlin returns and with him tales of Etrigan's son. $1.95
Green Lantern 55 (Marz & Aucoin + Banks + Tanghal) The new GL takes on the original as Superman and Metron arrive to enlist the aid of both men in a universal crisis. ... $1.50
Hawkman 13 (Messner-Loebs & Lieber + Shoultz) As Hawkman plummets towards *Zero Hour*, he is joined by Hawkmen from all over the time plain and things start to get very confusing. $1.95
Hellblazer 81 (Vertigo; Ennis & Dillon) *Rake at the Gates of Hell, Part 4* (of 6). A terrified Constantine seeks refuge while the Devil makes a direct approach on the Hellblazer. Mature readers. $1.95
Icon 17 (Milestone; Bright + Gustovich) Icon is the target of a hate campaign. $1.75
Justice League America 92 (Priest & Cruz + Conrad) *Return of the Hero, Part 1* (of 3). *Zero Hour* has caused a temporal malady allowing one of the founding members of the JLA to return to his comrades. The problem facing the League is, just who is Triumph and why does he know all of us? $1.50
Kid Eternity 16 (Vertigo; Nocenti & Phillips) *A Date in Hell, Part 4* (of 4). The final issue reunites Kid with his original mission, find his parents and his reason for being. Mature readers. $1.95
The Legion of Super-Heroes 61 (McCraw & Immonen + Boyd) *End of an Era, Part 6* (of 6). The Time Trapper returns and there is only one member of the Leguion left to face him. $1.95
NEW **Moonshadow 1** (DeMatteis & Muth) Reprinting the Epic series from 1985 in twelve installments. $1.95
The New Titans 114 (Wolfman & Mays) The beginnings of the new team of Titans emerges. ... $1.95
Star Trek Next Generation Special 2 (various) Three stories tying into the final TV episode of Next Generation. $3.95
Superman 93 (Jurgens & Rubinstein) Superman's parents arrive on Earth to take their son back to a Krypton that never exploded. $1.50
Vamps 2 (of 6; Vertigo; Lee & Simpson) Dracula meets Thelma & Louise. A team of female motorbike vampires cut a bloody swathe across the USA. Mature readers. .. $1.95
Xombi 4 (Rozum & Birch) The villainous Dr Sugarman stands on the verge of immortality. $1.75
Zero Hour: Crisis in Time 3 (of 3, 2, 1, 0; Jurgens w/Ordway) Someone very important dies again as the connection between Waverider and the Time Trapper is revealed. $1.50

SHIPPING JULY 26TH

Adventures of Superman 516 (K Kesel & Kitson & McCarthy) Superman returns to Metropolis to discover that he has been retroactively replaced by a hero called Alpha Centurian. $1.50
Animal Man 75 (Vertigo; Delano & Pugh) The Life-Power Church is growing, so Buddy and Maxine take the swelling ranks on an American pilgrimage. Mature readers. . . $1.95
Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 64 (Delano & Bachalo + Pennington) A reluctant perpetrator and a relentless Batman and how their tales entwine. $1.75
Blood Syndicate 18 (Milestone; Velez Jr & Chriscross & Hendrix) The return of old friends and old deadly foes. $1.50
Detective Comics 678 (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) Bruce Wayne's parents turn up, but Batman soon discovers that ignoring the problem with the timestream will not make it go away. $1.50
Flash Annual 7 (Wheatley & Gross + Benes) *Elseworlds Annual.* Wally Wood becomes a TV personality, while his mentor Barry Allen is killed in battle. The young Flash soon realises that with "great power comes great responsibility". $2.95
Gunfire 5 (Wein & Erwin + Garvey) Gunfire confronts Exomorphic Man, a new type of vigilante. $1.95
Justice League Task Force 16 (Priest & LaRoque + Rankin) *Return of the Hero, Pt 2* (of 3). The League continues to puzzle over Triumph, the hero who never was. $1.50
L.E.G.I.O.N '94 #70 (Peyer & Jorgenson + Pascoe) The final issue sees Dox and his crew defeated by his own son and out of the ashes rise a new team, due for an October release. $2.50
Outsiders 11 (Barr & Pelletier + Campanella) The Outsiders discover the truth behind Roderick the vampire and then disband. $1.95
The Ray 5 (Priest & Porter + Jones) The Ray of the Golden Age returns to punish his successor for almost destroying Philadelphia. ... $1.95
Sandman 63 (Vertigo; Gaiman & Hempel) *The Kindly Ones* continues. The might of the Furies is unleashed and Rose Walker re-enters Morpheus' life. Resolicited from last month. Mature readers. $1.75
Shadow Cabinet 4 (Milestone; Wayne & Leon + Martinbrough) Sideshow goes on a quest to finsd his father. $1.75
Star Trek Next Generation 63 (Friedman & Skelton) What is the secret behind the lost Romulan? Picard thinks he knows. ... $1.95

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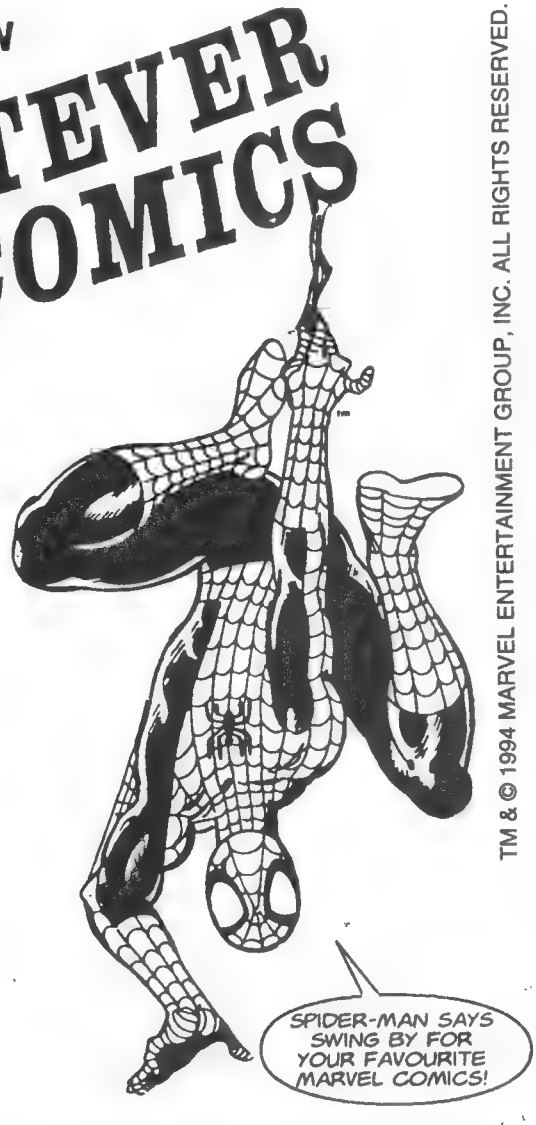

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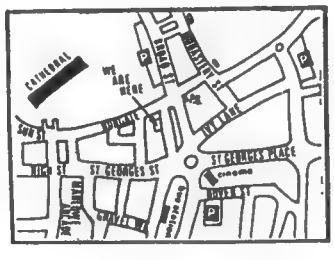
MARVEL COMICS



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Steel 8 (L Simonson & Batista + Faber) John Henry Irons discovers a teenage version of himself running around doing good. $1.50
Swamp Thing 146 (Vertigo; Millar & Hester + DeMulder) Swamp Thing travels to Amsterdam to find Linda Holland. Mature readers. . . . $1.95
Team Titans 24 (Jensen + Jimenez & Dodson + Blyberg) Final issue as *Zero Hour* decimates the team from all angles and there appears to be little or no hope for the future heroes. $1.95
Zero Hour: Crisis in Time 2 (of 2, 1, 0; Jurgens w/Ordway) The villain is revealed as another Flash seemingly bites the dust. $2.95

SHIPPING AUGUST 2ND

Action Comics 703 (Michelinie & Guice + Rodier) Superman returns to Metropolis only to discover that it doesn't exist. $1.50
Anima 7 (Witcover + Hand & Buzz + Blyberg) Anima is separated from Animus. $1.95
Aquaman 2 (David & Egeland + Vancata) Aquaman loses a hand in battle with his half-brother. . $1.50
The Darkstars 24 (Friedman & Collins + Branch) Donna Troy sets out to face the former Green Lantern, Hal Jordan. $1.95
Damage 6 (Joyner & Marimon + Hillsman) Damage's past begins to catch up with him, as does his future, as *Zero Hour* and the New Titans have unexpected consequences on our hero. $1.75
Doom Patrol 82 (Vertigo; Pollack & McKeever) The Head regains some mobility with the aid of the Sex Ghosts. Mature readers. . . . $1.95
Green Arrow 90 (Dooley & Barreto) Two Green Arrows appear, each from his own parallel universe. . . $1.95
Guy Gardner: Warrior 24 (Smith & Byrd + Davis) Guy Gardner's new powers kick in as he leads a *Zero Hour* strikeforce against Extant, the man behind the Crisis in Time. $1.50
The Huntress 4 (Dixon & Netzer) The shocking conclusion and a duel to the death with Redzone. . $1.50
NEW **The Invisibles 1** (Morrison & Yeowell) Vertigo series about a group of occult subversives. Mature readers. 48pg $2.95
Justice League International 68 (Priest & Williams + Lanning) *Return of the Hero, Part 3* (of 3) Triumph joins forces with the League against the temporal distortion. Final issue of the series. $1.50
Kobalt 4 (Milestone; Rozum & Jones) Slick, Volt and Red Light are villains with designs on Kobalt. $1.75
Lobo 9 (Grant & Semieks + Dell) Lobo versus Lobo, a cloned version of the main bastiche. $1.95
Robin 10 (Dixon & Grummett + Kryssing) *Zero Hour* crossover. Tim meets a 13-year old Robin: Dick Grayson $1.50
Showcase '94 #10 (anthology) *Azrael* (Grant & Vosberg); *Zero Hour Tie-in* (Jurgens & ?); *Black Condor* (Augustyn & Chun) 48pg . . . $1.95
Zero Hour: Crisis in Time 1 (of 1, 0; Jurgens w/Ordway) The 30th Century has ceased to exist and now the 25th Century is about to blink out. $1.50

SHIPPING AUGUST 9TH

The Batman Adventures 24 (Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) Batman must solve the mystery of Kyodi Ken, a ninja who is supposed to be dead. $1.50
Batman: Shadow of the Bat Annual 2 (Grant & Raney) An *Elseworlds* where The Wayne Foundation rules the world and the Batman is a tyrant. 64pg $3.95
Books of Magic 5 (Vertigo; Rieber & Snejbjerg) Tim Hunter gets a mysterious new guardian angel. Mature readers. $1.95
Catwoman 14 (Dixon & Balent) Catwoman teams up with a sabretooth tiger in the streets of Gotham. $1.50
Green Lantern Annual 3 (DeVries & Zachary + Pepoy) An *Elseworlds* annual featuring a horde of Green Lanterns as Hitler's army. . . $2.95
Looney Tunes 6 (Enyart + Koth & Wildman + various) Warner Bros.' animated favourites in a monthly series of tales. $1.50
Static 15 (Milestone; Busiek & Vokes + Quijano + Rollins) Static becomes the target of deadly adolescent frustrations. $2.50
Zero Hour: Crisis in Time 0 (Jurgens & Ordway) The climax of the groundbreaking, continuity crunching series as the Spectre takes on Monarch with everything at stake. $1.50

DEFIANT

Charlemagne 5 (Chichester & Pollina) Charles Smith's final hours are documented. $2.50
Dark Dominion 10 (Wein & Ridgway) Glimmer travels to Avalon as Schism draws closer. . . . $2.50
Dogs of War 4 (Holcomb & ?) Shooter takes on the Vagabonds and defeats them single-handedly. $2.50
Good Guys 9 (Shooter & Boone) The Good Guys battle the horrors of the Org. $2.50
Prudence & Caution 3 (Claremont & Fern) Prudence exposes her plans for the Earth but they are unlikely to come to fruition. $2.50
NEW **Schism 1** (Shooter + Wein + Lapham + various) Defiant's first major crossover pits the Dark God Chasm against the current crop of Defiant superheroes. $3.25
War Dancer 6 (Weiss) War Dancer loses his battle to save the Earth, now he must destroy it to prevent the Schism from becoming a physical entity. $3.25
Warriors of Plasm 12 (Lapham) Enter the Dark Lord Chasm as he takes over the Org with only the Warriors to prevent him and they are terribly depleted. $2.50

DRAWN & QUARTERLY

Palooka-Ville 5 (Seth) Seth begins an obsessive search for an old gag cartoonist from the 1940s. . . $2.95

EC COMICS

Shock Suspenstories 9 Featuring stories by Davis, Wood, Kurtzman & Evans. $2.00
Tales From the Crypt 9 (anthology) Featuring stories by Kamen, Ingels, Davis and Craig. $2.00
Weird Science 9 (anthology) Featuring stories by Feldstein, Kamen, Roussos and Wood. $2.00

ECLIPSE COMICS

Eclipse is believed to have ceased publishing, although ***Miracleman 25*** *has been scheduled for release - much to the creators' surprise.*

FANTAGRAPHICS

Crap 5 (Williams) Will Milt turn to the bottle for solace? Mature readers. b&w $2.50
Cud 7 (LaBan) Bob goes head to head with rival performance artist Ursula Clamm. $2.50
My True Story (Spain) Auto-biography of one of the masters of underground comix, Manuel "Spain" Rodriguez. Mature readers. $14.95
NEW **Deadly Swingers 1** (Little) Huey is on a downward spiral and only Clarisse, the black check-out girl can save him from total oblivion. $2.75
Duplex Planet Illustrated 9 (Greenberger & various) More strangeness from Duplex. . . $2.50
Idiotland 6 (Allen & Leib) 24 pages of whackiness featuring Lavender Sachet, Paranoid Fat, the Beef Baron et al. Mature readers. $2.95
Love and Rockets 45 (Los Bros. Hernandez) A new globe-trotting adventure with Maggie the Mechanic. Mature readers. $2.95
Naughty Bits 13 (Gregory) Special Back-To-Work issue. Mature readers. $2.50
Omaha the Cat Dancer Volume 2 #2 (Waller & Worley) Special Christmas in July issue. b&w $2.50
Real Stuff 19 (Eichorn & various) Stories by J.R. Williams, Stan Shaw and Ariel Bordeaux. Mature readers. b&w $2.50
Zippy Quarterly 7 (Griffith) New collection of Griffith's syndicated *Zippy the Pinhead* strip. . . . $3.50

IMAGE COMICS

Bloodstrike 12 (Napton & Alstaetter) Bloodstrike is now a one-man army, find out how it all started. . . $1.95
NEW **Boof 1** (Smith & Cleary + Harkins) Introducing an alien from the planet Smoashmouth, who's on Earth to eat your food and flip nose cherries (?) at you. $1.95
NEW **Boof and the Bruise Crew 1** (Smith & Harkins) A more children-orientated version of Boof. $1.95
Codename: Stryke Force 6 (Silvestri & Peterson) A member of Stryke Force is brutally killed in the climax of the team-up with Stormwatch. $1.95
Deathblow 7 (Lee + Choi & Sale) Deathblow is torn between two paths, follow the Black Angels or the Miracle Child. $1.95
Doom's IV 1 (Liefeld & Pacella) Resolicited from April 1993 . $2.50
Freak Force 8 (Larsen + Giffen & Bridges) Army ants from outer space invade the Earth and only Freak Force stand in their way. . . . $2.50
NEW **Hellshock 1** (Jae Lee) The tale of one mans dark obsession and the creature born of mortal woman and heavenly father. $1.95
The Newmen 4 (Stephenson & Matsuda) Guest starring Ripclaw as the Newmen take on the mysterious Ikonn. $1.95
Savage Dragon 12 (Larsen) A green-skinned woman from Dragon's past is introduced and a new SuperPatriot is introduced. . $1.95
Shadowhawk 12 (Valentino & McDaniel) *The Monster Within, Part 1* (of 6). Guest starring Chapel of Youngblood. $1.95
Spawn 23 (McFarlane) Spawn is hunted, by everybody and their brother, while someone else figures out Spawn's secret identity. . $1.95
Stormwatch 11 (Marz & Broome) Flashpoint and Cannon take the latest recruit to a bar. $1.95
Stormwatch 12 (Marz & Broome) Stormwatch has to bring in an out of control Hellstrike. $1.95
Supreme 15 & 16 (Extreme Studios) Supreme has a cup of coffee with Spawn, then gets his come-uppance thanks to Stormwatch. $1.95
Team Youngblood 11 (Extreme Studios) Continuing from **Youngblood #6**. $1.95
Troll II (Alstaetter & Napton) A tale of the Youngblood member's past. 48pg $3.95
NEW **Wetworks 1** (Portacio + Williams) Resolicited from August 1992. Introducing a team of gold skinned assassins. . . . $1.95
Violator 3 (Moore & Capullo + Pennington) The slapstick mini-series concludes with the Violator in the depths of Hell. $1.95
WildC.A.T.s 12 (Claremont & Lee) Huntsman teams-up with members of WildC.A.T.s against the villainy of Tapestry. $2.50
Youngblood: Battlezone 2 (various) Pin-ups and in-depth features on members of Youngblood. . . $1.95
Youngblood 7 (Liefeld + Miki + Taganashi) Overtkill ambushes Badrock while on vacation. . $2.50
Youngblood Strikefile 5 (Liefeld + various) Two stories featuring members of Youngblood. . . $2.95

KITCHEN SINK

No comics product is shipping this month from Kitchen Sink.

LIGHTNING

Perg 10 (Abrams + Mowry & Weed + Zyskowski) Perg battles the Avenging Angel for the soul of Elizabeth. $2.95
NEW **War Party 1** (Abrams + Weed + Zyskowski) Roger Sullivan is a coocky hitman on the borders of insanity. $2.95

MALIBU

Dreadstar 3 (of 6; Bravura; David & Colon) The untold story of Vanth Dreadstar's disappearance. . $2.50
NEW **Edge 1** (of 4; Bravura; Grant & Kane) The first "Ultimate" returns from the dead only to discover that other super powered individuals fail to share his dream. $2.50
NEW **Bruce Lee 1** (Baron & Mayerik + Sherman) The adventures of the martial arts legend. $2.95
Firearm 11/Ultraverse Premiere 5 (Ultraverse; Robinson & Erskine) Swan gets involved in a journey through Cyberspace in Glasgow. The flip-book hints at the first coming of Rafferty. $3.50
Hardcase 14 (Ultraverse; Hudnall & Krantz) Choice has disappeared just as Hardcase discovers her dreadful secret. $1.95
Giant Sized Mantra 1 (Ultraverse; Barr & Renkewitz) Introducing Topaz. Mantra returns to Boneyard's realm to rescue the Archimage. . . $2.50
Giant Sized Freex 1 (Jones & Kolins) Introducing the new Freex team, ties into Ultraforce #1. $2.50
The Night Man 10 (Ultraverse; Englehart & Hotz) Night Man moves his base of operation to the beach and faces the threat of Chalk. $1.95
Prime 14 (Ultraverse; Jones + Strazewski & Robertson) Beginning the next phase in Prime's crusade for justice. $1.95
Prototype 12 (Mason + Strazewski & Robinson + Whiting) The secret of Prototype 2000 is revealed. . $1.95
Mortal Kombat 1 (Marshal & Rolo + Rae) Based on the record-breaking computer game. $2.95
Sludge 10 (Gerber & Lopresti + Martin) Continuing the origin of Sludge, the walking, talking pile of...tur... er, sewer waste. . . $1.95
Solitaire 8 (Jones & Jones + Johnson + Kaalberg) Introducing the Degenerate, Solitaire's weirdest foe yet. $1.95

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The Solution 11 (Ultraverse; Hudnall & Statema) Shadowmage is kidnapped by Vyr and the team come to his aid with a foe helping. $1.95
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Hearts and Minds 2 (Altman & Davis + Pallot) Four issue mini-series based on the popular TV series. . . $2.50
Starslammers 3 (Bravura; Simonson) Rojas is loose on board a space ship, and that's bad news for the inhabitants. $2.50
The Strangers 14 (Ultraverse; Englehart & Hoberg) The return of a villain that hasn't been seen for fifty years. $1.95
Warstrike 3 (Danko & Nguyen) Warstrike becomes ever more cynical about his way of life as he fights for it in the Brazilian rainforest. . . $1.95
Wrath 7 (Barr & Ammerman) Wrath faces the threat of three ultrapowerful villains. $1.95

MARVEL COMICS

SHIPPING JULY 5TH

Alice Cooper: Last Temptation of Alice 2 (of 3; Gaiman & Zulli) Alice Cooper's early life as told by Mssrs Gaiman and Zulli. $4.95
NEW **Beauty and the Beast 1** (Slate & Quartieri) From the Disney animated movie. $1.50
Cable 15 (Loeb & Brewer) Cable attempts to have a quiet night out with Domino but is again confronted by a villain with information about his mother. $2.00
Captain America 431 (Gruenwald & Hoover + Bulanadi) Diamondback goes on trial for her previous criminal life. $1.50
Conan Saga 90 (Thomas & Chaykin + S. Buscema) Sword and swordplay. Reprint b&w $2.25
Daredevil 332 (Chichester & McDaniel + Collazo) *Tree of Knowledge, Part 6* (of 6). Daredevil, Captain America and Gambit are helpless as Strucker takes over the Information Highway. $1.50
Darkhawk 43 (Fingeroth & Smith + Akin) Why has Portal suddenly taken Darkhawk's place on Earth? $1.50
Groo the Wanderer 116 (Marvel-Epic; Aragones) Groo stars in an all-silent episode. $2.25
Namor 54 (Herdling & Isherwood) Llyra gives birth to Namor's son and then generates her growth technology to mature him to adulthood — all in one issue! $1.50
Hyperkind Unleashed 1 (Burke & Cruz + Halblieb) Continuing and concluding the story that appeared in the Razorline of titles. $2.95
Ren & Stimpy 23 (Slott & Kazaleh) Derived from Nickelodeon's animated TV series. $1.95
Spider-Man 2099 23 (David & Leonardi + Williamson) Ventura battles Risque and Spidey takes on the winner. $1.50
Spider-Man 2099 Annual 1 (David + Edgington & various) Spidey battles Chernobyl, the nuclear horror $2.95
NEW **Solo 1** (of 4; Fein & Randall) featuring the mercenary who first appeared in **Amazing Spider-Man**. $1.75
Spider-Man 50 (Mackie & Lyle) Kraven's son exacts his revenge on Spider-Man as the mystery of the Spider-Clone unravels. $1.95
Uncanny X-Men 316 (Lobdell & Madureira) *Generation Next, Pt 1* (of 4) The X-Men have been kidnapped so Banshee, the White Queen, Jubilee and Sabretooth have to find them and defeat Phalanx. . . $2.95
Web of Spider-Man 116 (Kavanagh & Saviuk + Baskerville) Spider-Man faces Facade as his private life continues to crumble. $1.50
X-Men Unlimited 6 (Moore & Smith) The Summers' go on holiday to the Savage Land and find themselves back in trouble. $3.95
NEW **X-Men Ashcan** (various) Everything you need to know about the X-Men. . . . $0.75

SHIPPING JULY 12TH

Annex 2 (of 4; Harris & McDaniel) A mechanism created to help disabled people is used as a super-powered exo-skeleton. $1.75
Amazing Spider-Man 392 (DeMatteis & Bagley + Emberlin) Spider-Man battles Shriek as Aunt May hovers close to death. . $1.50
Blackwulf 4 (Herdling & Medina + Anderson) Giant Man and a Sentinel star as Blackwulf attempts to overthrow Tantalus. $1.50
Barbie 45 (Trusiani & DeCesare) Barbie coaches the Pink Sox for a big game. $1.50
Conan Classics 4 Reprinting **Conan the Barbarian 4** $1.50
Deadpool II #2 (Waid & Churchill) 4-issue mini starring the mercenary with his side-kicks Copy Cat and Weapon X. $2.50
Ghost Rider 53 (Mackie & Larroca) The return of Blackout spells trouble for the spirit of vengeance. Shriker back-up strip. $1.95
Ghost Rider Annual 2 (Ellis & Saltares + Witherby) Ghost Rider versus The Scarecrow from the Scarecrow's point of view. . . $2.95
Guardians of the Galaxy 52 (Gallagher & West + Montano) Charlie 27 is accused of being an interplanetary serial killer. . . $1.50
Marvel Comics Presents 162 (anthology) *Vengeance* (Cooper & Jones); *Tigra* (DeVries & Czop); *New Warriors* (Nicieza & Walker); *Mace* (Potts & Crain + Barta). $1.75
NEW **The Little Mermaid 1** (Robbins & Wilshire + Hunt) Based on the hit animated Disney film. $1.50
Night Thrasher 14 (Slott & Purcell) The story of Thrash and Silhouette's relationship. $1.95
Nova 9 (Marrinan & Marrinan + Stegbauer) Nova and Shatterforce in a battle that rocks the planet. $1.95
NEW **Marvel's Greatest Super-Battles** (various) Trade paperback featuring six classic conflicts from Marvel history. $15.95
Punisher War Zone 31 (Dixon & J Kubert) The Punisher goes after a new heroin supplier based in Russia. $1.95
Ravage 2099 #22 (Mills + Skinner & Miehm + Adams) Ravage battles the Beast-Man then goes walkabout through 2099's countryside. $1.50
Secret Defenders 18 (Brevoort + Kanterovich & Wylie + Hudson) Doctor Druid calls Archangel, Iceman and Ant Man together against the all-new Swarm. Part two. $1.95
Silver Sable 28 (Wright & Purcell) Sable and Chen go on a mission to stop a serial killer. $1.50
War Machine 6 (Kaminski & Gecko + Eklund) War Machine faces another super assassin, Deathtoll, in the search for information. . . . $1.50
Wolverine 85 (Hama & Kubert + Farmer) *Final Sanction, Part 1* (of 2). Cable, Cyclops and Jean Grey join Wolverine as they try to rescue the

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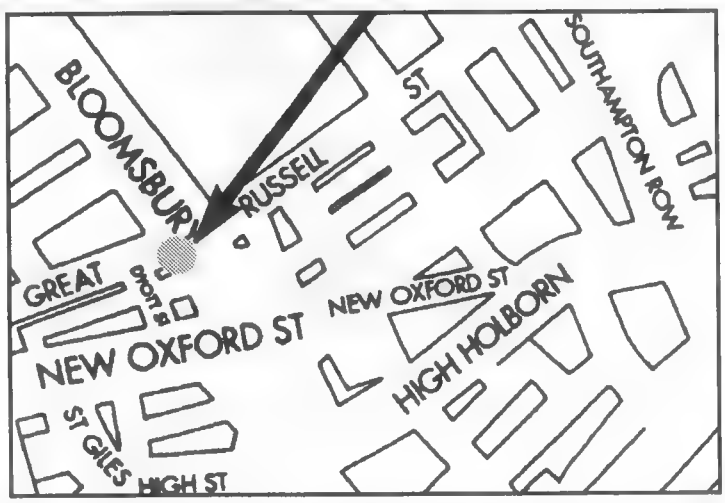

SUNDAY
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X-Men from the ever-growing Phalanx.. . . . . $3.50
X-Factor 106 (DeZango & Duursema & Milgrom) *Life Signs Part 1* (of 3) Douglock joins the team to aid in the destruction of Phalanx. X-Force and Excalibur are also recruited. $2.95
X-Men Adventures Season II #8 (Macchio & Heebink & Albrecht) Fox TV adaptation. Continuing the new season. $1.25
X-Men: The Early Years 5 (Lee & Kirby) Repr **X-Men** 5. . . . . $1.50

SHIPPING JULY 19TH

Avengers 377 (Harras & Epting + Palmer) Quicksilver and Crystal attempt to mend their marriage and return to Wundagore, discovering secrets about Magneto. $1.50
Blade 3 (Edgington & Wheatley + Ivy) The Vampire Hunter battles the newly reincarnated Dracula and is losing. $1.95
Beavis & Butt-Head 7 (Lackey & Parker) Series based on the MTV characters. $1.95
Conan the Adventurer 4 (Thomas & Kayanan) Conan finds himself in a war between two Golems. . . $1.50
Coneheads 4 (of 4; Collins & Richmond) Mini-series adapting the movie. $1.75
Doom 2099 #21 (Moore & Broderick + Nyberg) The Savage Land storyline concludes as a member of X-Men 2099 confronts Doom. $1.50
Excalibur Annual 2 (Ashford & Royale + Candelario) Tying up the Jamie Braddock storyline which has been present since issue 6. . $2.95
Excalibur 81 (Yale & Lashley + Candelario) Kitty Pryde is asked to separate Doug Ramsey from the techno-organic virus. $1.95
Galactic Guardians 3 (of 4; Gallagher & West + Montano) Mini-series spinning off from **Guardians of the Galaxy**. $1.50
Ghost Rider 2099 #5 (Kaminski & Buckingham) The battle with Warewolf and D/Monix comes to a head. $1.50
GI Joe 151 (Hama & Gosier + Koblish) Retelling the very first GI Joe story. $1.25
Incredible Hulk 421 (David & Frank + Smith) The Pantheon begins its search for Agamemnon and the trail leads to Asgard. $1.50
Marvel Age 140 Final issue. $1.25
Marvel Tales 289 (Defalco & Frenz + Breeding) Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man** 281. . . . . $1.25
Morbius 25 (Trusiani & Gilmore) New direction for the vampire who is reluctant to suck blood. $1.95
Punisher 94 (Abnett + Lanning & Teran) The Punisher goes berserk in an urban war zone. $1.50
Rocko's Modern Life 4 (Lewandowski + Auck & Lazellari + Fields) Ongoing series from the TV animation. $1.95
Sabretooth Classics 5 (David & Buckler + McLeod) Reprinting **Spectacular Spider-Man** 119. Sabretooth gets his butt kicked by a hostile woman. $1.50
Savage Sword of Conan 234 (Thomas & Watkiss) Sword and sweat from the Hyborean age. $2.25
Spectacular Spider-Man Annual 14 (DeMatteis & Lyle + Buscema) The Diary of the Green Goblin: how it will ultimately effect Spider-Man. $2.95
Thunderstrike 12 (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) Whyte Out, a reality-altering villain takes on Thunderstrike. $1.50
Transformers: Generation 2 #11 (Furman & Galan + Yanigher) Penultimate issue of the toys into machines comic. 1.75
Warlock and the Infinity Watch 32 (Ashford & Oliffe) Warlock discovers the origin of Count Abyss, a man who would sacrifice his own soul for ultimate power. $1.95
What If? 65 (Furman & Higgins) What if Archangel had fallen from Grace? $1.50
X-Men 36 (Nicieza & Andy Kubert + Ryan) *Generation Next, Pt 2* (of 4). Continued from **Uncanny**, Phalanx extends its reach and the remaining X-Men only just avoid it. . . . $2.95
X-Men 2099 #12 (Moore & Lim) The return of the Theatre of Pain. The battle that follows will lead to a new team of X-Men. $1.50

SHIPPING JULY 26TH

Barbie Fashion 45 (Slate & Cool) Barbie and Ken take time off to do some sun-bathing. $1.50
Black Cat 3 (of 4; Kavanagh & Wildman + Baskerville) The Cat teams up with Cardiac to battle the cybernetic First Strikers. . . . $1.50
Blaze 2 (Hama & Martinez + LaRosa) Blaze and his carnival head for Florida and a meeting with Man-Thing and Jennifer Kale. . . . $1.95
Dr Strange 69 (Quinn & Rubi + Harper) Polaris battles Strange, but isn't quite prepared for this "strange" Strange. $1.95
Fantastic Four 392 (DeFalco & Ryan + Bulanadi) *Nobody Gets Out Alive, epilogue.* The first hints of Fantastic Force as Sue and Franklin team-up to defeat the Dark Raider. . . $1.50
Fantastic Four Unlimited 7 (Thomas & Trimpe + LaRosa) The Thing features in a battle royale. . . $3.95
Force Works 3 (Abnett + Lanning & Tenney + Garcia) resolicited from December 1993. . . . . $3.95
Hellstorm 18 (Ellis & Manco) Hellstorm has to exorcise the spirit of an angel from the soul of an innocent man. $2.00
NEW **Justice: Four Balance 1** (Nicieza & Brasfield + Turner) The New Warrior in his own four issue series. $1.75
Iron Man 308 (Kaminski & Morgan + Mitchell) Tony Stark mentally programs a terminator-style Iron Man to handle his next mission. . $1.50
Machine Man 2020 #2 (of 2; DeFalco & Trimpe + Windsor-Smith) Repr 1985 mini. 48pg $2.95
Marvel Comics Presents 163 (anthology) *Vengeance* (Cooper & Jones); *Tigra* (DeVries & Czop); *New Warriors* (Nicieza & Walker); *Mace* (Potts & Crain + Barta). $1.75
Marvel Masterpieces II #3 (of 3; various) Reprinting the trading card set in comic form. $2.95
New Warriors 51 (Nicieza & Pace + Mahlstedt) What do you do with 14 New Warriors? Only seven will remain. $1.50
Nightwatch 6 (Kavanagh & Tenney + Milgrom) Nightwatch runs into Venom in San Francisco and discovers why Spider-Man had such difficulty with this anti-hero. . $1.50
Punisher 2099 #20 (Mills + Skinner & Coleby + Williams) Introducing a new art team as The Punisher faces vendetta. $1.50
Punisher War Journal 70 (various) Information about Frank Castle goes on the Net allowing anyone to come after The Punisher. $1.95
Silver Surfer 96 (Marz & ?) Silver

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Surfer, the Fantastic Four and the Hulk battle on Monster Island. $1.50
Spectacular Spider-Man 216 (DeFalco & S. Buscema) Aunt May is in a coma with the Scorpion keeing Parker from getting to her. . $1.50
Spider-Man: The Arachnis Project 2 (Lackey & Wildman) Spider-Man gets involved in a centuries spanning conspiracy rooted in the Smithsonian Museum. $1.75
Spider-Man: Web of Doom 2 (Harris & Kolins + DeLaRosa) Three issue mini-series about Spider-Man's webbing turning tragically against him. $1.75
Thor 478 (Thomas & Wyman) Thor versus Thor as an old incarnation of the Thunder God returns claiming the crown of Asgard. $1.50
Venom: Nights of Vengeance 2 (of 4; Mackie & Lim) Venom and Vengeance stalk the blood-sucking aliens. $2.95
X-Force 38 (Nicieza & Daniel) *Life Signs, Part 2* (of 3). X-Force become involved in the Phalanx agenda and then discover that Doug-Lock may be an even greater threat than the Phalanx. $1.50
X-Men Classic 99 (Claremont & Romita Jr + Green) Reprint. Cover by Grummett. $1.25

MIRAGE STUDIOS

Casey Jones Special 2 (Veitch & Eastman) The crustacean kidnappers have stolen Casey's mask. $2.75

TOPPS COMICS

Cadillacs & Dinosaurs: Man Eater 2 (Thomas & St. Aubin) The latest mini-series featuring the **Xenozoic Tales** characters created by Mark Schultz. $2.50

NEW **Bill the Galactic Hero 1** (Harrison & Zimmerman + Gustovich) resolicited from October 1993. 48pg $4.95
Hellspawn 3 (Benson & Cleary) Hellspawn and Pristine swap their original goals leaving the Angel to transform New York into New Babylon. $2.50
Mars Attacks 3 (Giffen & Adlard) Series based on the trading card set. Why did the Martians attack in the first place? $2.95
NEW **Jurassic Park: Raptors Hijack 1** (Englehart & Vokes + Fricke) Continuing the Velociraptors as they munch their way across America. $2.50
Victory 2 (Giffen + Busiek & Palmiotti) Based on the Jack Kirby-created characters. $2.50
Zorro 7 (McGregor & Mayhew + Mushynsky) Zorro and Lady Rawhide get down to some good old-fashioned mud wrestling. $2.50

TRIUMPHANT

Chromium Man 12/Prince Vandal 9 (Riley & Harris) Chromium and Prince Vandal search for the Prince's true heritage and immediately run into The Chosen. Part two. $2.50
Doctor Chaos 9 (Riley & Fox) Chaos must battle Mirth, the Lord of Laughter. $2.50
Company X 2 (Riley & Knapp) Doctor Chaos, foreseeing terrible trouble, gathers together a new band of heroes. $2.50
Riot Gear 11 (Riley & Williams) Riot Gear has a problem explaining where their new spaceship came from $2.50
Scavengers 13 (DiMeola & McCluskey) Featuring an ex-Scavenger who has gone completely insane. $2.50

VALIANT

Bloodshot 21 (Van Hook & Vosburg + Dixon) The Immortal Enemy puts a bounty out on Bloodshot. . . $2.25
Eternal Warrior 27 (Ostrander & Halsted + DeCarlo) The search is on for the new Geomancer. . . . $2.25
NEW **Geomancer 1** (Fontenot & Morales) Launched with wraparound chromium cover $3.75
Magnus: Robot Fighter Yearbook 1 (Baron & Smith) Set before the first Valiant Magnus comic, a follow up to **Magnus/Nexus**. $3.95
Ninjak 9 (Johnson & Ellis + Drake) Ninjak faces some genetically altered Dobermans. $2.25
Second Life of Doctor Mirage 12 (Layton & Chang + Branch) The Chaos Effect has left Mirage with a host of new powers, so he and his wife go off on a second honeymoon to test the new powers. . . . $2.50
Secret Weapons 14 (Berdinka) Things settle back to — almost — normal after the Chaos Effect. $2.25
Shadowman 30 (Hall w/Ryder) Shadowman has his saxophone stolen as an arsonist is loose in New Orleans. $2.50
Turok: Dinosaur Hunter 17 (Bedard & Simpson + Boyette) Turok comes across the far-reaching arms of the CIA. $2.50

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

Animerica Vol 2:7 (anthology magazine) Manga strips, interviews, news, reviews. 64pg. $4.95
Battle Angel Alita Part 3 #9 (of 13; Kishiro) Alita's first race in the Second League continues. as Caligula makes its move. . . $2.75
Bio-Booster Armor Guyver 10 (of 12; Takaya) Guyver III versus Reichmann Gyro and Sho must also protect his friends. $2.75
Lycanthrope Leo 5 (of 7; Kaji & Okamura) A Japanese version of *Teen Wolf*. A 17-year-old boy suddenly discovers that he is a werewolf. b&w $2.95
Maison Ikkoku Part Three #1 (of 6; Takahashi) First part of new series: an indecent happening occurs at the maison. $2.95
Mermaid Scar 4 (of 4; Takahashi) conclusion to the sequel of **Mermaid Forest**. $2.75
Mobile Suit Gundam 0083 #9 (of 13; Production cels) Albion test runs the new Gundam prototype. . . . $4.95
Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind, Part Four #2 (of 5; Miyazaki) Nausicaa comes back from the brink of death a renewed warrior. $2.75
Ranma 1/2 Part 3 #8 (Takahashi) Ranma still can't change back to being a boy, and old lecher Cologne is making advances. $2.75
Street Fighter II 4 (of 8; Kanazaki) Based on the successful *manga* series. $2.75

WARP GRAPHICS

Elfquest: Blood of Ten Chiefs 8 (Paxson + Collins & S. Blevins) The story of how Goodtree gained her special powers. $2.25
Elfquest: Hidden Years 15 (Pini & McKinney) The Wolfriders are attacked by warlord Grohmul Djun's army in a double sized conclusion to the story and leading into another Elfquest spin-off series. $3.50
Elfquest: New Blood 19 (Pini & Blair) Half of the Wolfriders' party has been captured by elf-eating humans. Only Windkin has a chance of rescuing them before they become dinner. $2.25

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OPENS MIDDAY

RETAIL index

Key to abbreviations used

imp	= air imported new issues
back	= back issues stocked
s-p	= small press & fanzines
merch	= comics-related trading cards, T-shirts, posters, models, etc
ind	= US independent comics (non-newsstand titles)
Brit	= British comics & albums
frgn	= foreign language comics
u/g	= underground comics
gn	= graphic novels & trade paperback editions
STO	= standing order service, new comics reserved
RPG	= role playing games

CENTRAL LONDON

■ **Acme Comic Shop**, 391 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8LQ (near Brixton tube) Mon-Thur 10-6; Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, wants lists welcomed) 071-274 6697

■ **Avalon Comics**, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11. Mon-Thur 10.00-5.45, Fri 10.00-6.30; Sat 9.30-6.00 (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 071-924 3609

● **The Book Worm Bookshop**, 19 Horner Square, Whitechapel, London. (Within Spitalfields market) Tues-Thurs 10-4.00; Fri 10-6.30; Sun 10-4.00 (back, ind, s-f & horror bks, Brit, phone cards)

■ **Comic Showcase**, 76 Neal St, London WC2. Mon - Wed 10-6; Thurs - Sat 10-7; Sun 12-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, cartoon books, original art) 071-240 3664

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 71 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1DG. Mon - Wed + Sat 10-6; Thurs + Fri 10-7 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, film & tv) 071 836 4179

■ **Gosh!** 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1 (opposite British Museum) 10-6 7 days a week inc Bank Hols. Late Thur-Fri til 7 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, largest selection of newspaper strip compilations in UK) 071 636 1011

■ **Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6; late Thurs + Fri to 7. (imp, back, merch, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film-tv fantasy, horror, body art, subculture, STO) 071 485 9320

■ **Platinum Age Comics/Bayswater Books**, 27 Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3EL. Mon - Sat 11-7 (but sometimes till midnight!) (back, ind, u/g, general 2nd hand books, search service) 071 402 7398

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Hamleys**, 4th Floor, 188/196 Regent Street, London W1 6BT. Mon-Wed 10-6.30; Thur 10-8; Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-7; Sun 12-6 (imp, back, ind, gn merch, Brit, STO) 071-287 3097

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin Megastore**, 14 Oxford Street, London W1N 9FL. Mon-Sat 9.30-8.00; Sun 12.00-7.00 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 071-637 4066 (fax 071 637 3966)

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, 1st Floor, Virgin Marble Arch, 527-531 Oxford St, London W1. Mon-Wed & Fri 9.30-7.30; Thurs 9.30-8; Sat 9-7.30; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 071-499 8839

OUTER LONDON

■ **Altered Images**, 6 The Arcade, High St, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1ET. Mon-Wed & Fri 10-5.30; Thurs 10 - 6.30; Sat 9 - 6 (imp, back, ind merch, Brit, gn, STO) 081 770 3815

■ **Andy's Comic Cavern**, Windsor Open Market (back of Woolworth's), Bachelors Acre, Windsor. Sats only 7.30-4.00 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) Free delivery for Windsor & Slough area. 0753 853381

■ **Atomic Comics**, 1112 High Rd, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Sat 10 -6 excl Fri 10-7 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, 2nd hand horror fantasy sf bks, original art) 081-597 8547

■ **Calamity Comics**, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, Sega & Nintendo game cartridges, videos) 081-427 3831

■ **Calamity Comics 2**, 90 Queens Road, The Broadway, Watford, Herts WD1 2LA. Mon-Tues 10-5.30; closed Wed; Thurs & Fri 10-7 Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy tv & film bks & merch, videos) 0923 249293

■ **Comic Shack**, 720 High Road, Leytonstone, London E11 3NN. Mon-Thurs 9.30-5.30; Fri & Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-5.30. Also by appointment (imp, back, s-p, merch, u/g, gn, hbks) 081-539 7260/081-555 9303 (eve)

■ **Dynamic Comics**, Units 43-47 In Shops, 68 Church St, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RB. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, merch) phone & fax 081-681 2597

■ **Edge of Forever, The**, 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs 10-7; Fri 10-8; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 081-298 1363

■ **Gary's Book & Comic Stall**, Site A65, The High Street, Walthamstow, London E17. Thur + Fri 10-5; Sat 8-5.30. Tube: Walthamstow Central (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, annuals, children's books)

■ **Krypton Komics**, 252 High Rd, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Wed 10-6; Thur-Fri 9.30-7; Sat 9-6. Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO) 081-801 5378

■ **Readers Dream**, 100A Harlington Road West, Feltham (near Heathrow airport) Middx TW14 0JJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00 excl Wed - closed (imp, back, gn, STO) 081-844 0780

■ **Skinny Melink's**, 66 Loampit Vale, Lewisham, London SE13. Mon-Thur 11- 6.30; Fri 11-7; Sat 10-6.30; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, ind s-p, u/g, gn, STO) 081-318 0499

■ **South London Book Centre**, 18-19 Stockwell Street, Greenwich, London SE10 9JN. Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat & Sun 9am-5.30pm (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, 2nd hand & new SF-horror-fantasy novels, art bks, bargain bks, remainders) 081 659 9714 or 081 853 2151

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RF. Mon-Wed 10.00-7.00; Thur-Fri 10.00-8.00; Sat 9.00-6.00; Sun 10.00-3.00 (later by appointment). (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, tv-film & fantasy, gn, STO) 081-449 5535

■ **They Walk Among Us** has moved to: 32 Union Court, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 excl Fri 9.30-6 (imp, merch, back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, fantasy/s-f/horror bks, STO, sub-culture, wants lists welcomed) Phone/fax 081 948 8476

■ **30th Century Comics**, Unit 12, Putney Market (1st Floor), Putney Exchange Shopping Centre, Putney High St., London SW15 1TW. Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00-6.00; Thu 9.00-7.00 (imp, back, ind, gn STO) 081 778 8094

■ **Time Trek**, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 081 313 0677

■ **Westside Comics**, 392 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0EL. Mon-Sat 10-6, late Thurs-Fri to 6.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO). 081-813 5019

SOUTH EAST

■ **ACE Comics**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts) 0206 561 912

■ **Cartoon Shop**, Upper Galleries, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon, Essex. Mon - Wed & Sat 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0268 534194

■ **Cartoon Shop, The**, 368 Chartwell West, Top Floor, Victoria Circus Shopping Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0702 613021

● **Close Encounters**, 196c High St, Slough SO1 1RT (above Curries). Mon-Sat 9.30 - 6.30 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, videos, Trek & Star Wars merch) 0753 571799

■ **The Comic Rocket**, 75a Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Mon-Wed 10.00 - 4.30; Thur-Fri 10.00 - 7.30; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, u/g, STO) 0892 518771

■ **Comic Showcase**, 19-20 St Clements St, Oxford. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO) 0865-723680

● **Comics and Cards**, 84 St Mary Street, Southampton SO1 1NZ. Mon-Sat 8.00-7.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) phone/fax: 0703 235324

■ **David's Comics**, 3 Sydney Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Fri 9.30-6; Sat 9-6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, Brit, STO, gn, exchange, club discount) 0273 690223

■ **Incognito Comic Shop**, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv merch) phone/fax: 0227-785898

■ **Incognito Comic Shop**, 14 Starnes Court, Union St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. Mon-Fri 10.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv related merch) phone/fax: 0622-683642

■ **Renegade Comics**, Unit 11, Elmes Arcade, High Street, Stevenage Old Town, Herts SG1 3EF. Mon -Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, v/g, gn, STO, RPG) 0438 747468

■ **Siegi's Comics & Bags**, Unit 3, 6 Orange St, Canterbury, Kent. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, tv SF, gum cards, sf memorabilia) 0227 470840

■ **Slough Computers**, 245 High Street, Slough, Berks SL1 1BN. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30. (imp, ind, gn, STO, Sega & Nintendo game carts) 0753 521594

● **Universal Comics**, 16 London Road, Staines. Mon - Fri 10.30 - 6.30, Sat 10 - 6.30. (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO)784 460300

■ **Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits) 0227 453226

■ **Wokingham Comics & Trading Cards**, Wokingham Indoor Market, Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire. Sats only (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO) 0734 790441

■ **Wonderworld**, 125 Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 3SQ. Tues-Sat 10-2, 3-6. (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0705 833 272

■ **Wonderworld**, 133 St Mary Street, Southampton S01 1NX. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0703 634658

MIDLANDS

■ **Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0533 515266

■ **Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0602 484122

■ **Arrival Comics & Books**, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Mon-Wed 10.30-5.30; closed Thurs; Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit). 0902-313 660

■ **Bookworm**, Unit 3, 33-39 Tower St, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon-Sat 11-4 (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 0553 760904/771880

■ **Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0473 233017

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford MK40 1NH. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0234 218984

■ **Comics Unlimited**, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0462 480018

■ **Demon Comics**, 102 Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1QT. Mon - Sat 10-6. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 0452 330370

■ **Fantasy World**, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0782 279294 (fax 0782 202381)

■ **The Final Frontier**, 29 St Nicholas Place, Leicester LE1 4LD. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO) Established 1984 0533 514347

■ **Ground Zero**, 11 Handley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, STO, accessories) 0623 22017

■ **Magic Labyrinth**, 34-36 Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1RD Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, frgn, merch, s-p, STO, RPG) 0533 518178 fax:0533 518179

■ **Mephisto Comics**, 81 Ber Street, Norwich, NR1 3RD. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 0603 762762

■ **New Worlds**, 22 West Parade, Lincoln LN1 1JT. Mon-Sat 9.30-4.30 excl Wed - closed. (comics, bks, mags, sf & fantasy specialists) 0522 530069

● **Nowhere Comics**, 3 Kings Court, Bridge Street, (next to Bridge St Records) Walsall. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30, (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, videos) 0922 643352

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 021 643 0143

■ **Planet X**, 5 London Rd, Worcester. Now open Tues-Sat 10.00-6.00, Thurs til 8.00pm. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, STO-monthly) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, Virgin Megastore, 1st Floor, 98 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6SX. Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs 9-8. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, tv film & fantasy bks, gn, merch, STO) 021 236 5735 fax: 021 236 8153

■ **Time Zone**, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG) 0743 365192

■ **Zoom Comics!!**, Unit 3 Inshops Centre, 65 South Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1QX Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 021 354 7500

NORTH WEST

■ **Arcadia Comics**, 12 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 7PT (next to Comet). Mon-Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, ind, horror-sf mags/bks, Dr Who, Trek, ltd merch & gn, Brit, STO, ltd toys & figures) 061 339 1816

● **Arcadia Comics**, 75 Oldham Rd, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 5QR Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (excl Tues 3.30 & Sat 5.00 closing) (imp, back, ind, horror-sf mags/bks, Who, Trek, ltd merch, gn, Brit, STO, ltd toys/figures) 0706 713770

■ **Equinox Books** has moved to: 50 Bridge Street, Astley Bridge, Bolton, Lancs BL1 2EG. Mon-Sat 10-5.30, late Thurs til 8.00 (imp, back, merch, model kits, imp, manga, Trek, Dr Who) 0204 593348

■ **Imagination Station**, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO)

■ **Odyssey 7**, 21 Hanging Ditch, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3ES. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror books, postcards, videos, badges, soundtracks, stills, LF filmbooks, Star Trek, Doctor Who) 061 832 7044

■ **Odyssey 7**, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 061 273 6666

■ **Sartori Comics**, The Assembly Rooms, King Street, Lancaster. Thurs-Sat 10.00 - 4.30pm (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0524 733943 (after 6pm)

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Rd, Blackpool. 10-5.30 Tues, Thurs-Sat all year; Mon-Sun in season (closed Wed). Out of season open Wed, closed Sun-Mon. (imp, s-p, back, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, kits, gn, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0253-48321

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancs. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, kits, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0772-204287

■ **The Time Tunnel**, 66 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7HD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm excl Weds. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, model kits, toys, action figures, Doctor Who, Star Trek)

■ **Worlds Apart**, Acorn Gallery, 16 Newington (city centre), Liverpool L1 4ED. Mon - Sat (excl Wed) 10-6; Wed 12-6 (imp, back, ind, merch, s-p, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy film mags) 051 707 0839

NORTH EAST

■ **Aardvark**, Unit 2, 6/10 Blenheim Walk, opposite Leeds University, Leeds LS2 9AQ, Yorks. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) 0924 220729

■ **Armadillo**, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon-Sat 10-6; late Thur-Fri to 8 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks) 0482 29787

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Dr Who, Trek) 0642 249143

■ **Comicville**, Ground Floor, 54 The Arcade, The Piece Hall, Halifax HX1 1RE, Yorkshire. Tures-Fri 9.30-5; Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits, toys, Who, Trek, videos) 0374 482186

■ **Dells Comic Shop**, 87 Kirkgate, Bradford 1, Yorkshire. Mon-Sat 9-5 excl Wed 9- 3 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 0274 390 541

■ **Fantasique**, 115 High St West, Sunderland (near Joplins). Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, STO, fantasy bks, manga) Discount cards available. 091 565 4485

■ **Hysteria Comics**, Unit 2, The Arches, Park Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 7PH. Mon-Sat 9-5 limp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO, film mags) 0429 236952

■ **Nu Earth Comics**, 4 Davygate Centre, York Y01 2SU. Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30; Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, art bks) 0904 611 461

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.15 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror magazines, newspaper strip compilations) 0742 769475

■ **Odyssey**, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0532 426 325

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, Star Trek items) 0742 758905

■ **Skyrack Book Service**, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps) Establ 1965.

■ **The Last Picture Show**, 40 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thur 10-8, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-7, Sun 12-5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, film-rock memorabilia) 0742 569604

WEST COUNTRY

Comics & CDs, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0272 244655

■ **Floppy Tongue Comics**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon-Fri 11.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0722 331107

NEW **Floppy Tongue**, 1 Sussex Place, Claverton Street, Widcombe, Bath. Mon-Sat 10.30-5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0225 442711

● **Forbidden Planet**, 30 Penn St., Bristol BS1 3AS. Mon-Fri 10.00-5.30, Sat 10.00-6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film & tv, videos, STO) 0272 298692

■ **The Hobbit Hole**, 9 Commercial Road, Gloucester. Mon 12-5.30; Tues-Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film-tv mags + merch) 0452 309 533

■ **Joy's Comics**, 25 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EZ. Mon - Sun 7.30 - 6. (imp back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn) 0305 269737 (after 6pm 833304)

■ **Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0752 257800

■ **Maelstrom Comics**, St Nicholas Market, Corn Street, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-5. (imp, back, s-p, small merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO)

■ **Purple Haze**, 58 Eastlake Walk, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL1 1BX (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0752 254136

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 0202 422 964

ISLE OF WIGHT

■ **Astounding Comics**, 61 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 1UL. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0983 525320

WALES

Cardiff Fantasy Centre, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, videos; establ 12 yrs) 0222 563005

■ **Comics & Collectibles**, Stall 69, Pontypridd Indoor Market, Mid-Gmaorgan, South Wales. Wed, Fri, Sat 9.30- 4.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, model kits, tradsing card specialists)

■ **Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film/tv mags, RPG, Games Workshop stockists) 0792 642097

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 excl Thurs 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0222 228885

■ **Journey into Mystery**, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Tues - Fri 11.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO, indie records & cds)

■ **Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, Brit, STO) 0633 222159

SCOTLAND

■ **The Adventure Zone**, 280 High St, Glasgow G4 0QR. Mon-Sat 9.30-6, Sun 10-5 (imp, back, Brit, u/g, STO, merch, s-f bks, tv-related supplies, videos, models, Trek, Dell-Gold Key specialists, mags) 041-552 3323

■ **AKA Books & Comics**, 25 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5RJ. Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn) 041 552 6692

■ **All Winners**, 27 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh EH1 2QG. Mon -Sat 10-5.30; Sun 1-5 (trading card specialists: sport & non-sport + mags) 031 226 2774

■ **Black Hole Comic Shop**, The Market Hall, Wellgate Centre, Dundee. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO) 0382 21037

■ **City Centre Comics**, 31-35 Parnie St, Glasgow G1. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.30, Sun 12-5. (back issues only). 041 552 6692 or 041-632 2786 after 6pm

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As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, and space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.

Life after Marvels

Comment by Kurt Busiek, Vancouver, Canada

I would like to confirm that, contrary to earlier reports, I will not be writing **Marvels II**. I had proposed the sequel series, which was to deal with events of Marvel history of the 1970s and 1980s as seen through the eyes of a policeman and a petty criminal, and I was already working on the series when I withdrew.

It was basically that old saw about *creative and musical differences* which is often a code-phrase for *huge spitting and screaming arguments*, but that definitely wasn't the case this time. Everybody was concerned with what was the best thing to do for the project; how to make **Marvels II** the best series it could possibly be. It just turned out that the best way to do that was for me to bow out.

Marvels was one of the most popular comics of the last year and painter Alex Ross helped me retell crucial events in the Marvel Universe from 1939 to 1973, from a point of view of a normal man-in-the-street. The combination of the new narrative viewpoint and the believability of the painted artwork resulted in a major critical and sales success. Alex has already declined the art assignment on the sequel.

I had difficulties with the sequel and they stemmed from finding a new "voice" for the project. Any good collaboration works like physics, two forces come together and create a vector that goes off in another direction entirely. That's how **Marvels** worked. Alex brought in one dynamic, I brought in another, and the two combined in a very surprising and successful manner. It simply wouldn't have worked the same way had either of us been working with different creators.

While a sequel was a natural decision, I said it had to be treated as a new project. **Marvels** was not about plot, but about emotion, and the sense of wonder surrounding the human viewpoint of the super-heroes. So a sequel shouldn't and couldn't be a conventional what-happened-next scenario — it would be a combination of different creative forces, shooting off an altogether different collaborative vector that would work on its own terms. Which is exactly as it should be.

Marcus McLaurin (the series editor) did his part just fine. He brought in Tristan Schane, a terrific young painter with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. He's a very skilful painter, and was turning out striking and powerful stuff.

However, after two years and almost two hundred pages of figuring out how 'best' to do **Marvels**, I was writing the sequel for Alex's sensibility, and that just didn't work with another artist. To ask Tristan to paint **Marvels II** the way Alex Ross would have done would be unrealistic and unfair. It would have been like hiring John Romita Jr. and asking him to draw like Jim Lee — a waste of a talented artist as you bury his strengths under the effort of trying to be something he's not. Unfortunately, that's pretty much what I was doing.

Either Tristan would be forced to take an approach that was uncomfortable for him and wouldn't have resulted in his best work, or a lot of what was crucial to the success of my story would have been lost in the process of re-pacing and re-configuring it. We could have just bitten the bullet, accepted the fact that **Marvels II** would be a compromised project from the start and soldiered on — but nobody wanted that.

Tristan is an outstanding talent and I'm sure he'll do sensational work on **Marvels II**. But he deserves a writer who can come onto the project and write to his strengths and give him a platform from which he can do his best work, as I hope I did for Alex. Whether it's because I'm too close to the previous series, or stuck in a rut or whatever, I just couldn't do that — not this year, not on this particular assignment.

Marcus, Tristan and I explored various options in the hopes of getting the series to work smoothly again. Tristan actually offered to quit but the last thing I wanted was to cost somebody his job — especially when he was doing such great work. Besides, Marcus would then have to find a new artist — and painters who can produce believable, realistic work, tell a story, *and* do 180 pages plus covers in less than a year and a half don't exactly grow on trees. Better to find a new writer, who can work out an approach to the material that meshes with Tristan's as fully as mine did with Alex's.

Marvels II in whatever form it takes, will not be based on my proposal or story material. We discussed Marvel buying out what I'd done so far, but decided against it for two reasons. First, I think that whoever they choose to tackle **Marvels II** should have the freedom to build it around their own impressions of the Marvel Universe and their own feelings on the material, not their interpretation of how I feel about Marvel comics of that period. I think one of the things that prompted the tremendous reaction to the first series was the genuine love and respect for the source material that Alex and I have. The sense of wonder that we put into **Marvels** was real — it was ours, and I think readers could tell. If **Marvels II** isn't as deeply felt, if another writer is constrained to follow a plot of my devising and not his or her own, I don't think it'll work. That would be a betrayal of what was special about **Marvels**.

Also, my underlying story for **Marvels II** — about two normal humans caught in a whirlpool of

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vengeance and obsession that threatens to overwhelm them — is a story I feel strongly about. With or without the Marvel characters, it's still a story I want to tell sometime, in some form.

Thankfully, the success of **Marvels** has given me plenty of options regarding what to do next. I've got a bunch of stuff in the pipeline — **Jonny Demon** from Dark Horse, **Victory** from Topps, **Valor** from DC and **Night Thrasher** from Marvel — and beyond that, I've got some projects in the negotiating stages that will give me the chance to do the kind of material I've always wanted to do in comics. If I'd felt pressured to stick with **Marvels II** for economic reasons, even though I didn't feel I could do the project justice, I'd have felt really lousy. Luckily, the enthusiastic response readers gave **Marvels** has opened a lot of new doors for me.

If **Marvels** taught me anything, it's that readers can and will respond to a project that engages their imagination and stirs their sense of wonder. I wouldn't want to let them down, to go back on the promise of **Marvels** and what Alex and I achieved there. That's the basis of the reason I took myself off the sequel, and I think time will prove it was the best decision.

The split was **Marvels II** is amicable, there is no animosity. Marcus and I talked things out fully, and I'm definitely flattered that what Alex and I created can have a life beyond our participation. I'll be the first in line to read **Marvels II**, and I hope the new writer finds the **Marvels** experience as unique and rewarding as I did.

Marketing to the masses

Comment by John Ridgway, Bolton, Manchester

CONCERNING *Censorship '94* (**Comics International** #43): Tony Chester's piece implies — whether intentionally or not — that **Heavy Metal**'s printing of Serpieri's **Carnivora** has been censored to get it into this country. This is not the case (I doubt that British sales were even considered when the story was censored). The pricing on the cover indicates that this is a magazine produced for the American and Canadian markets. The fact that it does not have a *mature readers only* label shows that it is intended for sale in *all* shops selling magazines, to anyone who cares to buy it — including young children.

The censoring in pictures which Tony refers to are to hide the fact that Druuna's arms are bound (this, presumably is because of bondage connotations), and a cane is cross-hatched to hide the fact that she is being beaten. In other pictures, additional dialogue and clippings hides oral and anal sex. One is left to imagine what occurs in two other pictures that have been completely obliterated and on the four pages that have been replaced by pinups.

Whilst I can barely see the need to cover the fact that Druuna's arms have been bound (heroes and heroines are frequently tied up), I do see that caning can be considered questionable. I cannot believe that Tony advocates that the other subjects should be allowed in a magazine on general sale.

The self-imposed censorship of all these pictures enables the magazine to be available to as wide a range of ages as possible and, thereby, to achieve maximum sales without risk of giving offence. In this context the amendments make perfect commercial sense.

Anyone who wishes to study Serpieri's art and/or the sexual antics of Druuna (the heroine) in uncensored form can obtain the hard-backed Kitchen Sink version. Or, at least, they can in America.

This is the point Tony should have made. The hard-backed version is not readily available in this country because importers are afraid that copies may be seized by Customs. This raises an interesting point. Could **Carnivora** be readily imported into this country or is the importers' reluctance to take the risk factor here? I can well understand an importer being unwilling to risk loosing money if a dodgy item is impounded. Perhaps some method of checking with Customs could be arranged whereby prior permission to import is obtained. *[This procedure already exists. Editor]*

I am not an apologist for censorship. *I would actively support it where matters of obscenity are concerned.* If you can be *absolutely and irrevocably 100% certain* that obscene material *cannot* provoke violent sexual crime then Tony may have a point. If you cannot be certain, and offer irrevocable proof that it cannot provoke, then the government (be it Tory, Labour or Liberal) has a responsibility to constrain it. (Even if you could prove that it had no harmful effects you would then have to consider whether the general public want obscene material in their society.)

If, however, it can be proven that Druuna's sexual antics have a definite therapeutic value on those who are likely to commit rape then perhaps Druuna could be made available on prescription — although it would cost more that way.

Serpieri's art is very good — his figure work is excellent and the drawings are crystal clear — but I find the series puzzling (having also read the earlier **Morbius Gravis**). While both stories take place aboard an interstellar ship, it does not appear to be the same vessel. It is completely different in exterior and interior detail, the personnel are entirely different (with the exception of Shastar and mention of Lewis) and the passengers, robot priests and plague victims have vanished, being replaced by the mysterious Prolets and predatory aliens. Druuna's situation appears to have changed from that of merely another passenger to a member of the crew. Perhaps all this is explained in **Creatura** — also in the Druuna series — which I have not read.

Having seen some of John Coulthart's art, I would say that, while it is graphic and often gruesome, I do not recall seeing anything that was obscene. John's work is immaculately rendered and minutely, painstakingly detailed. It deserves to be widely seen and his abilities recognised. I sincerely hope that there is nothing gratuitous by others in **Reverbstorm**, riding on the worthiness of John's artwork, that will prevent its distribution.

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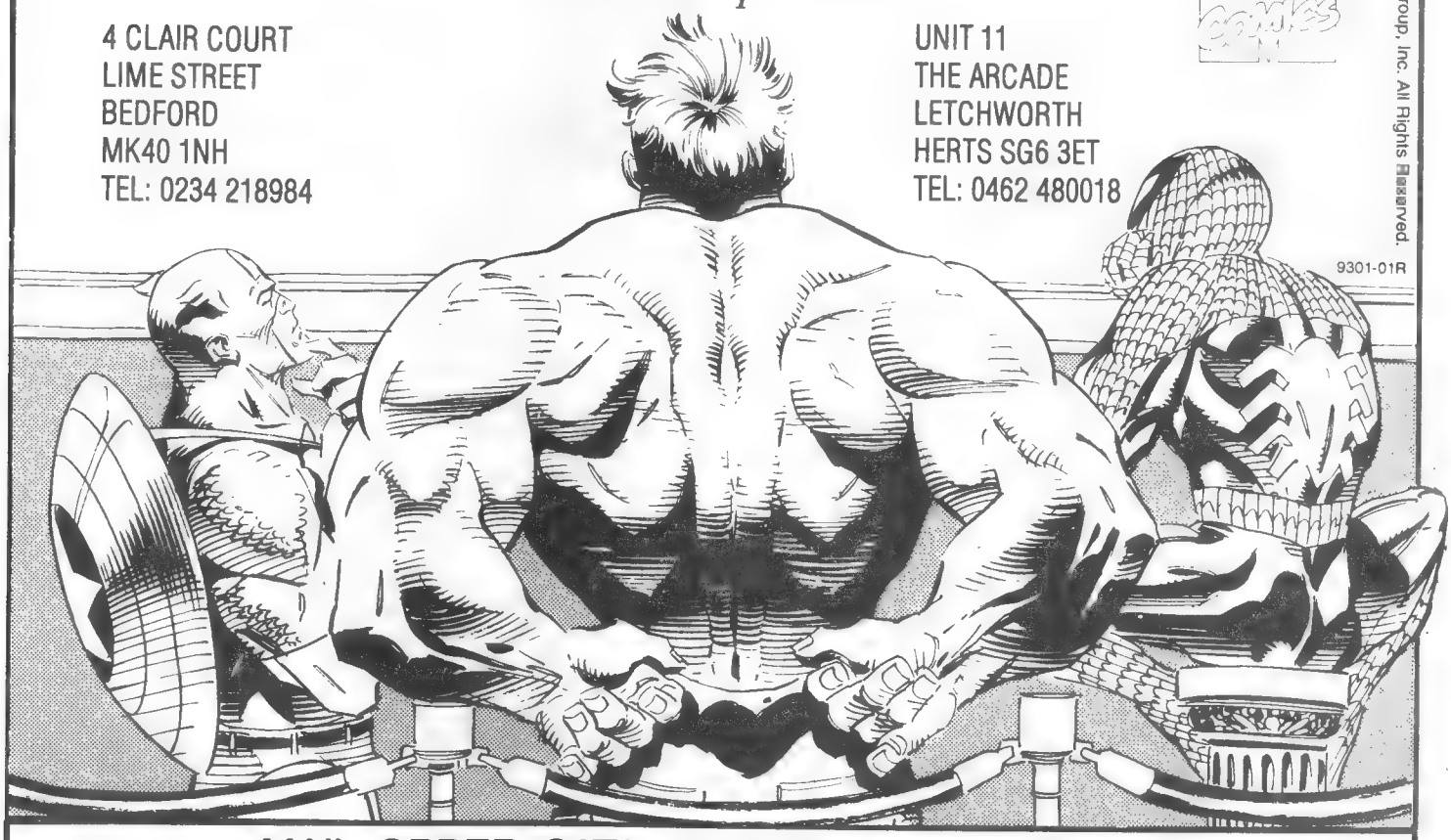

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NB: a) page numbers quoted in this section are story pages unless otherwise stated; b) artists are listed as penciller/inker; c) all art is b&w unless noted otherwise.

All artwork carries a reserve price. Minimum bid for artwork is £15.00.

Reproductions of tsome of he artwork in this section appear on pages 2 to 4 of this catalogue.

94/229: MIKE COLLINS/JOSE MARZAN JNR - ***[PETE CANNON] THUNDERBOLT #10 page 2 & 3*** - dynamic double page spread featuring Thunderbolt, Justice League Europe and a handful of dinosaurs. (Art has been folded in half.) ***(£20-30)***

94/230: MIKE COLLINS/STEVE MITCHELL - ***BATMAN: SHADOW OF THE BAT #10 page 14*** - lots of Batman and a fight scene to boot! ***(£15-22)***

94/231: MIKE COLLINS/STEVE PINI/DAVID ROACH - ***GREEN LANTERN ANNUAL 6 page 53*** - two-panel action page. ***(£15-20)***

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GUARANTEE

All lots are graded very strictly but any unsatisfactory item not as described may be returned within 7 days of receipt for a full refund.

Please note that only complete lots may be returned (i.e. in the event of dissatisfaction with part of a multiple lot, the entire lot must be returned).

94/232: ALAN DAVIS - ***AQUAMAN [m/s] #1 page 15*** - a truly unique page from the unpublished *Aquaman* mini series circa 1985. This page exists as pencils only due to Alan being offered *Batman and the Outsiders* instead. ***(£65-80)***

94/233: ALAN DAVIS/MARK FARMER - ***BATMAN: FULL CIRCLE page 10*** - lots of action featuring Batman & Robin. ***(£50-60)***

94/234: ALAN DAVIS/MARK FARMER - ***EXCALIBUR #49 cover*** - a really striking piece in homage to Neal Adams' cover to ***[Uncanny] X-Men*** #56. ***(£100-125)***

94/235: ALAN DAVIS/MARK FARMER - ***EXCALIBUR #67 page 24*** - Excalibur vs the Sentinels; lots of big guns! ***(£60-75)***

94/236: ALAN DAVIS/MARK FARMER - ***MARVEL SWIMSUIT SPECIAL 1992*** - superb large-size illustration of Phoenix. ***(£75-100)***

94/237: ALAN DAVIS/PAUL NEARY - ***WOLVERINE: BLOODLUST page 44*** - superb action page with additional art on the overlay. ***(£65-80)***

94/238: JAN DUURSEMA/MARK FARMER - ***INCREDIBLE HULK #402 page 1*** - really nice splash page illo' of the Hulk. ***(£25-30)***

94/239: JAN DUURSEMA/MARK FARMER - ***INCREDIBLE HULK #402 page10*** - great fight scene. ***(£20-25)***

94/240: HUNT EMERSON - ***LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER page 8*** - a great page for the Women's Libbers! Signed by Hunt - ADULTS ONLY! ***(£80-100)***

94/241: HUNT EMERSON - ***YOU ARE MAGGIE THATCHER page 83*** - the end (?) of Dame Margeret; signed by Hunt. ***(£70-90)***

94/242: UNA FRICKE - ***DINOSAURS: A CELEBRATION - TERRIBLE CLAWS AND TYRANTS page 8*** - a beautiful full color rendering of an Herrerasaurus ischigualastensis & a Staurikosaurus pricei. ***(£60-75)***

94/243: JOHN HIGGINS - ***2000AD #298 pages 23 to 27*** - all five pages of a "*Tharg's Time Twisters*" story. ***(£25-35)***

94/244: GIL KANE/MARK FARMER - ***GREEN LANTERN CORPS #224 page 28*** - Green Lantern & "Arisia" in flight. ***(£20-25)***

94/245: GIL KANE/MARK FARMER - ***GREEN LANTERN CORP #224 page 38*** - Ch'p, Salakk... the end! ***(£20-25)***

94/246: ANDY LANNING/DAVE HINE - ***THE SLEEZE BROTHERS #6 cover*** - This could be eggsactly what you're looking for! Signed by Andy. ***(£20-25)***

94/247: STEVE PARKHOUSE - ***KOLA KOMMANDOS*** - excellent full colour character studies for ***2000AD*** series. ***(£45-60)***

94/248: WILL SIMPSON - ***ALIENS: ROGUE #3 page 13*** - the ultimate fight scene... alien vs alien! ***(£45-60)***

94/249: WILL SIMPSON - *ANIMAL MAN* ***#65 page 9*** - Cliff, Lucy sitting talking in a barn. ***(£25-35)***

94/250: WILL SIMPSON - ***HELLBLAZER #50 page 36*** - The King of the Vampires and his acolytes. ***(£25-35)***

94/248: WILL SIMPSON - ***TOXIC #19 page 15*** - a full colour action page from *Sex Warrior*. ***(£50-70)***

94/249: BRYAN TALBOT - ***BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #40 page 12*** - dynamic open panel fight scene. ***(£80-100)***

94/250: BILL WILLINGHAM/MARK FARMER - ***GREEN LANTERN CORPS #218 page 21*** - a tremendous single panel of a planet exploding! ***(£20-25)***

PREMIUM EDITIONS

NB: Unless otherwise stated, all items in this section are produced (by the publishers) as retailer incentives and, as such, can be considered limited editions.

LOT 94/247

LOT 94/234

94/251: ***PLATINUM EDITION*** - **THE EXTREMIST #1** [DC/Vertigo] ***(£8-12)***

94/252: FLOOD RELIEF [Ultraverse] - Coupon send-away. ***(£5-9)***

94/253: ***AMBERCHROME EDITION*** - **JURASSIC PARK #1** [Topps] - Limited to 7,500 copies. ***(£11-16)***

94/254: ***PLATINUM EDITION*** - **SUPERMAN #75** [DC] - Still bagged and sealed. ***(£45-60)***

94/255: IMAGE #0 [Image] - Coupon send-away. Includes *Troll* (Rob Liefeld/Art Thibert), *Stormwatch* (Jim Lee pencils), *Savage Dragon* (Erik Larsen), *Stryker* (Marc Sylvestri), *Shadowhawk* (Jim Valentino/Chris Ivy) plus Todd McFarlane illo's. ***(£14-29)***

94/256: ***PLATINUM/EMBOSSED EDITION*** - **ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #1** [Dark Horse] ***(£9-12)***

94/257: THE MAXX #1/2 [Wizard Press/Sam Kieth] - Coupon send-away. ***(£5-9)***

94/258: ***PLATINUM EDITION*** - **BLACK ORCHID #1** [DC/Vertigo] ***(£12-15)***

94/259: ***COLLECTOR'S PACK*** - **COMICS' GREATEST WORLD: GOLDEN CITY** [Dark Horse] - Includes gold edition of *Rebel*, an illustrated print featuring Catalyst: Agents of Change (Chris Warner art) and an uncut sheet of *Golden City* bookmarks; all contained in an illustrated envelope. ***(£14-22)***

94/260: ***PLATINUM EDITION*** - **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #500** [DC] - Still bagged and sealed. ***(£50-75)***

94/261: ***GOLD EDITION*** - **WILDSTAR: SKY ZERO #1** [Image] ***(£12-18)***

94/262: ***PLATINUM EDITION*** - **DEAD BOYS #1** [London Night Studios] - ADULTS ONLY! ***(£12-18)***

94/263: ULTRAVERSE PREMIERE #0 [Ultraverse] - Coupon send-away; includes *Prime*, *The Strangers*, *Hardcase* (Kevin Maguire pencils), *Mantra*, *Freex* (Gene Ha pencils) and the making of *Rune* (Barry Windsor-Smith art). ***(£15-20)***

94/264: ***COLLECTOR'S PACK*** - **COMICS' GREATEST WORLD: STEEL HARBOR** [Dark Horse] - Includes metallic edition of *Barb Wire*, an illustrated print featuring The Machine (Chris Warner art) & an uncut sheet of *'Steel Harbor* bookmarks; all contained in an illustrated envelope. ***(£14-22)***

94/265: ***PLATINUM EDITION*** - **SWAMP THING #140** [DC/Vertigo] ***(£7-11)***

MARVEL COMICS

94/266: SILVER SURFER [1968] #1 (fn-/sld bcvr/*) - origin of the Silver Surfer. *Reserve price.* ***(£60-90)***

94/267: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #298 (sl crsd bcvr) - intro Chance; intro Venom (cameo - no costume); Todd McFarlane pencils + **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #299** (sl cnr knk) - 1st costumed appearance of Venom (cameo); Todd McFarlane pencils. ***(£11-17)***

94/268: TALES OF SUSPENSE #39 (f) - intro & origin of Iron Man. ***(£93-140)***

94/269: AVENGERS #2 (g/hvy tp stn). ***(£30-45)***

94/270: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #100 (vg-). ***(£10-15)***

94/271: 3 x DAREDEVIL - #27 (fn+/sl crsd cvr) - Spider-Man appearance, **#28** (vg+) & **#29** (vg). ***(£10-16)***

94/272: 7 x FANTASTIC FOUR - #76 (vg+/bkshp stmp) - Silver Surfer appearance, **#77** (g/*) - Silver Surfer appearance, **#78** (vg/sl wro bcvr/*), **#79** (g/*), **#81** (vg-/hvy crsd), **#82** (vg-sl trn cvr) & **#83** (f). ***(£12-20)***

94/273: AMAZING FANTASY #15 (g) - intro Spider-Man. *Reserve price.* ***(£666-1,000)***

94/274: [UNCANNY] X-MEN #50 (sld bcvr/*) - Jim Steranko pencils. *Reserve price* ***(£11-17)***

94/275: FANTASTIC FOUR #49 (vg-/wro cvr/sl wro bcvr/nm stmp on cvr & bcvr) + **FANTASTIC FOUR #50** (g/wro cvr/hvy tp stn) - 2nd & 3rd appearances of the Silver Surfer & Galactus. *Reserve price.* ***(£16-24)***

94/276: AVENGERS #9 (vg+) - intro & "death" of Wonder Man. ***(£40-60)***

94/277: [UNCANNY] X-MEN #51 (*) - Jim Steranko pencils + **[UNCANNY] X-MEN #52** (*). *Reserve price.* ***(£14-21)***

94/278: INCREDIBLE HULK [1962] #4 (f). (£26-39)

94/279: TALES TO ASTONISH #35 (f) - intro the costumed Ant-Man. ***(£33-50)***

94/280: STRANGE TALES #115 (vg+/mkd cvr) - includes origin of Doctor Strange and 2nd appearance & origin of the Sandman. ***(£43-64)***

94/281: [UNCANNY]X-MEN #53 (sl mkd & sld bcvr/*) - Barry Smith art (first in America). *Reserve price.* ***(£10-15)***

94/282: FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1 (f/*) - origin of the Fantastic Four retold + **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #2** (g/*) - origin of Doctor Doom + **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #3** (g/*) - wedding of Reed Richards & Sue Storm. Reserve price. ***(£37-57)***

94/283: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #101 (vg-) + **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #102** (vg+/mkd cvr) - intro the Enchantress & the Executioner. ***(£14-21)***

94/284: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #3 (vg-/v sl wro bcvr) - origin of Spider-Man retold. *Reserve price.* ***(£135-202)***

94/285: TALES OF SUSPENSE #46 (vg-) - intro the Crimson Dynamo. ***(£16-24)***

94/286: 15 x FANTASTIC FOUR - #90

(p/po pg 15 - story page/*), **#92** (f), **#93** (g/hvy crsd bcvr), **#94** (vg-) - intro Agatha Harkness, **#95** (f), **#96** (vg/mkd cvr), **#98** (f/*), **#99** (f), **#101** (g/mkd cvr), **#104** (vg-/*) - Magneto appearance, **#105** (g/trn cvr/cvr dtchd), **#106** (f/cvr dtchd/*), **#107** (vg-/mkd bcvr), **#108** (vg-/cvr ls) & **#110** (g/*). ***(£15-22)***

94/287: UNCANNY X-MEN #54 (vfn-/sld bcvr/*) -intro the Living Pharaoh, intro Alex Summers (later Havok) + **[UNCANNY] X-MEN #55** (sld bcvr). *Reserve price.* ***(£14-22)***

94/288: AVENGERS #14 (vg+/hvy crsd). ***(£9-13)***

94/289: STRANGE TALES #105 (g/po bcvr) + **STRANGE TALES #106** (f). ***(£13-19)***

94/290: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #109 (vg) - Magneto appearance. ***(£14-21)***

94/291: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 (v sl crsd cvr) - 1st full appearance of Venom; Todd McFarlane art. ***(£10-15)***

SIGNED EDITIONS

NB: All items designated as "signed" are limited editions and come complete with a certificate of authenticity unless otherwise stated. Names in brackets [ ] are publisher - producer of signed editions.

Items designated as "autographed" have generally been signed individually by the creator(s) for the original owner (e.g. at conventions, personal appearances, etc).

94/292: DAREDEVIL: THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR #1 [Marvel - Limited Treasured Editions] - Signed by penciller John Romita jnr & inker Al Williamson; lmited to 2,500 copies. ***(£20-27)***

94/293: EXCALIBUR: THE SWORD IS DRAWN [Marvel] - Autographed by writer, Chris Claremont; 1st printing. ***(£5-8)***

94/294: THE MARVEL MASTERPIECES COLLECTION [1993] [Marvel - Dynamic Forces] - All 4 issues signed by artist Joe Jusko; limited to 5,000 copies. ***(£40-60)***

94/295: THE PHOTO-JOURNAL GUIDE TO MARVEL COMICS volumes A-J & K-Z [Gerber] - Both hardcover volumes autographed by Stan Lee. *Reserve price.* ***(£25-40)***

94/296: WILDC.A.T.S TRILOGY [Image - Dynamic Forces] - All 3 issues signed by artist Jae Lee; limited to 5,000 copies. ***(£40-55)***

BARCLAYCARD/VISA, ACCESS/MASTERCARD & AMERICAN EXPRESS accepted. (Minimum £10.00)

94/297: GREEN LANTERN #50 [DC - Legends & Lore] - Signed by writer Ron Marz & penciller Darryl Banks; limited to 5,000 copies and complete with a *"Cyberstorm"* print by Darryl Banks. ***(£14-20)***

94/298: COSMIC POWERS #1 [Marvel - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by penciller Ron Lim & inker Jimmy Palmiotti; limited to 7,500 copies. ***(£12-18)***

94/299: AVENGERS #366 [Marvel - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by inker Tom Palmer; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£12-18)***

94/300: THUNDERSTRIKE #1 [Marvel - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by penciller Ron Frenz; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£11-16)***

94/301: SUPERMAN #81 (DC - Dynamic Forces) - Signed by penciller Dan Jurgens & inker Brett Breeding; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£14-20)***

94/302: STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE #1 [Malibu - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by penciller Gordon Purcell; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£12-16)***

94/303:BATMAN #500 [DC - Dynamic Forces] - De-luxe edition; signed by penciller Joe Quesada; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£15-20)***

94/304: YOUNGBLOOD STRIKEFILE #1 [Image - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by artist Jae Lee; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£12-15)***

94/305: SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #25 [DC - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by penciller Jon Bogdanove & writer Louise Simonson; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£15-22)***

94/306: BREED #1 [Bravura - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by writer/artist Jim Starlin; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£15-20)***

94/307: NEWSTIME: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SUPERMAN [DC - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by creators Denis Rodier & Roger Stern; limited to 5,000 copies. ***(£10-15)***

94/308: FREEX #1 [Ultraverse - Catalyst Productions] - Signed by penciller Ben Herrera; #386 of 2,000. ***(£10-15)***

94/309: RUNE #1 [Ultraverse - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by writer/artist Barry Windsor-Smith; limited to 10,000 copies. ***(£18-24)***

94/310: X-FACTOR #92 [Marvel - Dynamic Forces] - Signed by penciller Joe Quesada; limited to 7,500 copies. ***(£14-20)***

GOLDEN AGE, ETC

94/311: FAMOUS FUNNIES #40 [Eastern Color] (vg+/sl po cvr/mkd cvr). *Reserve price.* ***(£35-45)***

94/312: COMICS ON PARADE #5 [United Features Syndicate] (vg+/rsty stpls/mkd cvr). *Reserve price.* ***(£40-55)***

94/313: MORE FUN COMICS #17 [National Periodicals] (vg-/rsty stpls/mkd cvr). *Reserve price.* ***(£100-125)***

94/314: MORE FUN COMICS #22 [National Periodicals] (f/stpls completely rusted away/hvy tp stn). *Reserve price.* ***(£25-40)***

LIMITED EDITIONS

NB: All books in this section are signed & numbered hardcover editions complete with dustjackets unless otherwise stated. Only those signing these editions have been mentioned.

94/315: MARSHAL LAW: FEAR AND LOATHING & CRIME & PUNISHMENT [Graphitti Designs] - Pat Mills & Kevin O'Neill; limited to 1,500 copies. ***(£15-20)***

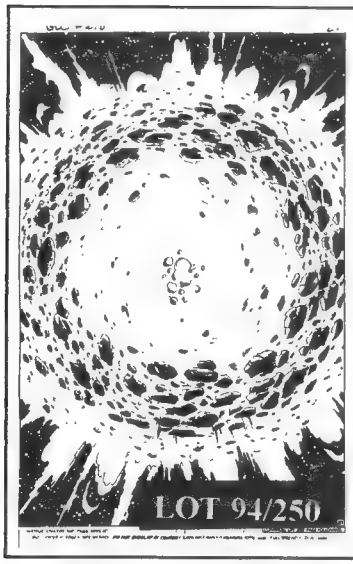
94/316: PREDATOR volume 1 [Dark Horse] - Chris Warner, Ron Randall & Mark Verheiden; limited to 2,500 copies. ***£35-50)***

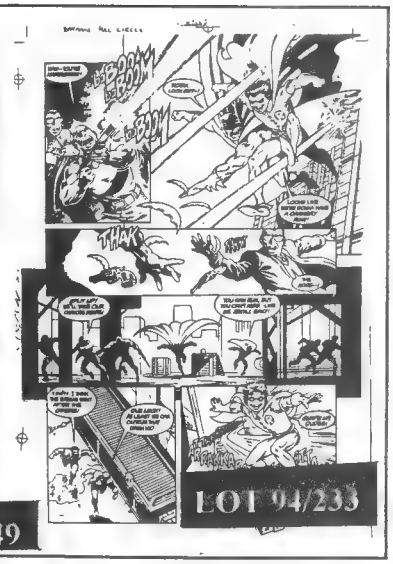
94/317: THE SAVAGE DRAGON [Graphitti Designs] - Erik Larsen; limited to 5,000 copies. ***(£20-25)***

94/318: THE TERMINATOR: TEMPEST [Dark Horse] - Chris Warner, Paul Guinan & John Arcudi; limited to 1,500 copies;

TELEPHONE BIDDING

- Please note that our telephone lines will be manned from 11.00am to 4.00 on Sunday, 7th August for last minute bidding and for checking if earlier bids need to be increased.
- Telephones will only be manned 11.00am to 4.00pm from Monday to Friday except on that Sunday.





VIEWING

● No lots are kept on the premises but viewing can be arranged in required. Please call us on 081-298 1363 for an appointment.

slipcased. ***(£30-40)***

94/319: [CLIVE BARKER'S] HELLRAISER volume 1 [Graphitti Design] - Simon Bisley & John Bolton; limited to 2,000 copies. ***(£15-25)***

DC COMICS

94/320: BATMAN: VENGEANCE OF BANE SPECIAL #1 - intro Bane; 1st printing. ***(£10-15)***

94/321: SHOWCASE #60 (fn-/*) - ist Silver Age appearance of the Spectre. *Reserve price.* ***(£35-45)***

94/322: ADVENTURE COMICS #346 (*) - intro Princess Projectra, Nemesis Kid, Karate Kid & Ferro Lad + **ADVENTURE COMICS #347** (vfn-/*). ***(£11-17)***

94/323: FLASH [1959] #140 (vfn-/sl sld bcvr/*) - intro Heat Wave. ***(£15-20)***

94/324: MYSTERY IN SPACE #75 (vg-/sl stnd cvr & bcvr/*) - Justice League of America appearance. ***(£15-22)***

94/325: SUPERMAN [1939] ANNUAL 4 (vg-/*). ***(£15-22)***

94/326: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #20 (vfn-/dt stmp on bcvr/mkd bcvr/*). ***(£24-37)***

94/327: 7 x BRAVE & BOLD - all Batman team-ups: **#90** (fn-) - Adam Strange, **#92** (vg-/*) - the Bat-Squad, **#93** (g/sl po pp 23/24 - story page/*) - House of Mystery, Neal Adams pencils, **#94** (vg-/cntrfld ls/*) - Teen Titans, **#96** (fn/bkshp stmp) - Sgt Rock, **#97** (fn-/sl crsd cvr) - Wildcat & **#98** (vg+) - Phantom Stranger. ***(£11-18)***

94/328: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #8 (fn-/sl trn cvr/*) . ***(£33-49)***

94/329: SUPERMAN [1939] ANNUAL #6 (vg+/*). ***(£11-16)***

94/330: METAL MEN #1 (vg+/dt stmp on bcvr/mkd bcvr/*). *Reserve price.* ***(£50-65)***

94/331: BATMAN: SWORD OF AZRAEL [COMPLETE MINI SERIES] - intro & origin of Azrael; Joe Quesada/Kevin Nowlan art. ***(£15-25)***

94/332: HAWKMAN [1964] #7 (fn+/sl sld bcvr/*). ***(£12-18)***

94/333: FLASH [1959] #135 (fn/sl mkd bcvr/*) - intro Kid Flash's new costume. ***(£15-22)***

94/334: 4 x BRAVE & BOLD - all Batman team-ups: **#67** (vg+/*) - Flash, **#68** (g/*, Bat-Hulk & Metamorpho, **#69** (vg-/cvr ls/*) - Green Lantern & **#74** (g/*) - Metal Men. ***(£9-15)***

94/335: ATOM #12 (fn/v sl o'cntr/0.75" trn bcvr/*). ***(£10-16)***

94/336: DOOM PATROL [1964] #88 (fn-/*) - origin of the Chief. ***(£9-14)***

94/337: 3 x ACTION COMICS - #338 (fn+/sl po bcvr/*), **#339** (*) & **#341** (*). ***(£11-17)***

94/338: SHOWCASE #53 (fn/v sl o'cntr/*) - G.I. Joe. ***(£8-12)***

94/339: BATMAN #200 (*) - Batman's origin retold. *Reserve price.* ***(£60-75)***

94/340: BRAVE & BOLD #58 (vg/*) - 2nd appearance of Metamorpho + **BRAVE & BOLD #59** (vg) - Batman & Green Lantern (1st Batman team-up in *Brave & Bold*). ***(£14-21)***

94/341: [BEWARE] THE CREEPER #1 (v sl mkd bcvr/*) ***(£15-20)***

94/342: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #21 (g/sl tpd spn/hvy tp stn/*) - 1st Silver Age appearance of the Justice Society of America + **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #22** (g/hvy tp stn/*) - 2nd Silver Age appearance of the Justice Society of America. ***(£25-38)***

94/343: ATOM #12 (vg+/*) + **ATOM #14** (vfn-/v sl wro cvr/*). ***(£19-28)***

94/344: FLASH [1959] #147 (sl mkd cvr & bcvr/*0 - Professor Zoom appearance. ***(£10-16)***

94/345: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #28 (sl sld bcvr/*). ***(£14-21)***

94/346: BATMAN ANNUAL #4 (fn-/1" spn dmg/*). *Reserve price.* ***(£10-15)***

94/347: GREEN LANTERN [1960] #23 (vg+/*) - intro the Tattoed Man. ***(£12-18)***

94/348: 3 x ADVENTURE COMICS - #346 (v sl sld bcvr/*), **#343** (cvr ls/v sl mkd bcvr/*) & **#345** (v sl mkd bcvr/*). ***(£13-20)***

94/349: FLASH [1959] ANNUAL #1 (vg-/1.5" trn bcvr/*). *Reserve price.* ***(£30-45)***

94/350: SHOWCASE #73 (*) - intro the Creeper. ***(£20-30)***

94/351: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #18 (vfn/v sl mkd bcvr/*). ***(£30-45)***

94/352: 3 x BATMAN - #205 (sl mkd bcvr/*), **#207** (*) & **#210** (*). ***(£12-19)***

94/353: FLASH [1959] #139 (fn/*) - origin of Professor Zoom/Reverse Flash. ***(£14-21)***

94/354: HAWK & DOVE [1968] #2 (vfn-/v sl mkd bcvr/*). ***(£7-11)***

94/355: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #25 (vfn-/*). ***(£14-21)***

94/356: ATOM #15 (vg/*) + **ATOM #16** (fn-/sl mkd bcvr/*). ***(£11-18)***

94/357 SUPERMAN [1939] ANNUAL #7 (fn-/hvy sld bcvr/*) - Silver Anniversary issue. ***(£8-13)***

94/358: 4 x FLASH [1959] - **#125** (f/*), **#126** (f/*), **#132** (g/*) & **#137** (g/sl tpd spn/hvy tp stn/*) - Justice Society of America (cameo) appearance, 1st Silver Age appearance of Vandal Savage, 1st full Silver Age appearance of the Golden Age Green Lantern. ***(£17-28)***

94/359: JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #19 (vfn-/v sl mkd bcvr/*). ***(£26-39)***

94/360: EIGHTY PAGE GIANT #8 (fn+/sld bcvr/v sl wro cvr/*) - more Secret Origins including Justice League of America. ***(£28-42)***

94/361: FLASH [1959] #134 (fn+/sl mkd bcvr/*). ***(£15-22)***

94/362: BRAVE & BOLD #51 (fn-nm stmp on cvr/*) - Aquaman & Hawkman. ***(£16-25)***

LOTS WANTED

● We are always looking for quality items to include in our regular auctions. In particular, we would like to see "hot" comics, Silver Age and "key" books, rare issues, limited edition portfolios & prints, original artwork, toys, trading cards and other collectables. In fact, almost anything of interest to the comic fan and collector!

● Maximise the value of your collection and let us sell it on your behalf. Why accept only 15-30% from a dealer when at auction you can realise 80% or more of the bid price?

● Should you wish to submit items for inclusion in a forthcoming auction please write, including a contact telephone number if possible, detailing title(s), issue number(s), grade(s), any special features and - if applicable - minimum selling (reserve) price to...

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REVIEWS

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***Review codes:** General competitive performance of a title is measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A specific issue's quality, as measured against previous issues: <- - -> to <+ + +>.*

*Two ratings are used for the sake of detailed and fair coverage. The number following each review (on a scale of 1 to 10) is a quality comparison with other similar titles currently being published. We make no attempt to compare **Cerebus** to **Spider-Man**, but review each within the context of its own genre.*

The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +> if there has been a notable improvement.

***Reviews Editor:** Sarah Bolesworth*

Reviewing panel: Michael Graney (MG), Phil Hall (PH), Rol Hirst (RH), Richard Hopkins (RHo), Richard J Johnston (RJJ), Peter C Phillips (PCP), David Pollack (DP), Michael Sperlinger (MS)

DC COMICS

Action Comics 700 <+> (Stern & Guice + Swan + Rodier + Anderson) Dying Luthor takes revenge on Metropolis in chapterplay finale as the city crumbles and insurance rates rise. Essentially a fight issue with some quiet moments. Thrown in notably is the wedding of Lana Lang and Pete Ross nostalgically handled by the supreme team of Swan and Anderson. Even so, for a milestone 700th issue (and how many titles have racked up that number?) it's fairly routine and below par for an anniversary edition. (PCP) **6**

American Freak 5 (Loupre & Locke) A final showdown as the freaks take on the normals, leading to self-realisation and self recognition. The ending fits nicely into reality and explores the fascination with the non-normal in a way that has tied the comic together from the beginning. Good book. (RJJ) **8**

Animal Man 73 (Delano & Pugh) Animal Man hits the telly and exposes the human world to the Red. Delano is exploring the concept of Red in a hard hitting way through the eyes of two characters, Buddy and his daughter Maxine, using contradictions in interpretations to show the Red manifesting itself in different ways. The humour and the tragedy combined sum up a fascinating package. (RJJ) **9**

<+ -> Buddy and Maxine go on a TV chat show to promote their religion as things get even more bizarre. The cynic in me frowns at Delano's sermonising about saving the world, but I suppose his heart is in the right place. An ambitious storyline. (RH) **7**

Batman Annual 18 (Moench & Cueva + Pez) *Elseworlds* story that transplants Batman's origin to 15th Century Florence. Tomas De Medici adopts the mantle of the Bat to rescue Da Vinci's lover Mona Lisa Del Gianconda, while in modern day Gotham Batman endeavours to recover her stolen portrait. Moench pens a fair mystery but newcomers Cueva and Pez struggle to make the visuals flow. (PCP) **4**

Batman 509 <+> (Moench & Manley + Giordano) Double-sized issue has Wayne turning to Lady Shiva to help him regain his fighting skills. Slightly contrived plot holds together well in the circumstances despite lacking originality. (PCP) **6**

<+> Bruce Wayne begins his training to resume the mantle of the bat in a padded double-sized story that really could have been told in half the space. Manley's art is functional but unexciting. (RH) **5**

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight Annual 4 (Augustyn + Waid & Staton + Ottolini) Excellent *Elseworlds* episode opens with the violent deaths of Bruce Wayne and Harvey Dent and leads into a film-noirish investigation of the circumstances leading to the demise by assistant DA Dick Grayson. Ottolini diffuses Staton's usual cartoony style and that adds much to the moody narrative. (PCP) **9**

Using a number of the narrative techniques from *Citizen Kane*, this Elseworlds story delves into the secret lives of recently deceased rivals Bruce Wayne and Harvey Dent, one of whom is the Batman. It's an interesting idea, particularly for movie buffs to spot the Orsen Welles tributes (no "Rosebud", just a bat symbol), but the plot twists are occasionally a little predictable. (RH) **7**

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 62 (Dixon & Wagner + McCain) Bruce Wayne fights Ninjas, while the darker-than-dark knight plays Rambo at the docks. Remarkably like watching a badly plotted computer game. The first Batman comic I've bought in a long time, and quite possibly the last. (MS) **2**

<+ -> Bruce Wayne's retraining at the hands of Lady Shiva takes a nasty turn when he steps over the line and kills a man. I was furious when I read it, but fortunately it all turned out to be a set-up (in **Robin** #8) and Bruce's code of honour remains intact. Hooray! Scritchy-scratchy artwork, but nice Mignola cover. (RH) **5**

Batman Adventures 22 <+> (Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) Two Face escapes from prison and Batman risks his life to prove Harvey Dent still exists between the scars. Free from the trends and over-long fight scenes that characterise other Bat-titles, this is Batman: basics, but wonderfully refreshing because of that. (RH) **10**

Batman: Shadow of the Bat 29 (Grant & Blevins + Smith) Bruce Wayne faces a deadly opponent in his quest to prove himself one more. So-so issue. Grant is one of the better Batman writers, but seems to have little enthusiasm for this tale, perhaps because we all know what's going to happen: Azrael is now so one-dimensional there seems no way they can base the Bat-titles around him. (RHo) **5**

Books of Magic 2 (Rieber & Amaro + Gross) This book has lost a lot of its initial magic. An attempt to portray Tim as a sympathetic confused boy, out of his league, but with an inherent mastery of his situation is attempted but rarely conveyed. The faerie subplots seem contrived and there seems little point to the whole exercise. (RJJ) **4**

Books of Magic 3 (Reiber & Amaro + Gross) Look beneath the art's weaknesses, the rather conventional setting and an irritating central character in this book, and you may just find an excellent horror story struggling to get out; to their credit, these first issues have transcended many of their failings and produced a "faerie tale" worthy of the name. Promising. (MS) **8**

Teenage mage Tim Hunter struggles to outwit the malevolent Manticore. Not a bad issue, but this seems to be lacking something. The removal of the suburban setting strips away some of the character's appeal, perhaps? Worth persevering with, though... and Death is set to appear next issue. (RHo) **6**

Catwoman 11 <+> (Duffy & Balent + Parks) Selina takes on men with guns and battle armour in forgettable actioner. Parks destroys Balent's usually flowing visuals. A mess from cover to cover. (PCP) **2**

Catwoman 12 <+> (Duffy + Dixon & Balent + Parks) In the middle of a hunt for villains trading in cybernetic weaponry, Catwoman gets dragged into the *Knightend* storyline. Much of this — such as Bruce Wayne's first moments back in costume — should have appeared in one of the core Bat-books, the crossover seems a little too contrived. (RH) **6**

Flash 92 <+> (Waid & Weirango + Marzan) Iris Allen returns from the future with rapidly aging grandson in tow. A treat for continuity buffs. (PCP) **7**

<+ -> Iris West arrives on Wally's doorstep from the 30th Century, in hot pursuit of her nephew, the new Kid Flash. Waid's writing shows, as always, a true love for the characters and their history and Weirango and Marzan's art gets batter every month. (RH) **8**

Green Arrow 87 <+ -> (Dooley & Aparo + Fernandez) Oliver reaches a crossroads in his life when he deliberately kills a gangland paedophile. In that he's killed before the denouement lacks impact. Nonetheless, the series is more readable than the Grell-era tail enders. (PCP) **5**

Green Arrow 88 <+ +> (Dooley & Aparo + Fernandez) Ollie goes to New York to meet up with his old JLA cronies, but soon ends up feeling inadequate amid the super-powers. It's a shame they can't keep Kevin Dooley on this title, he has a good understanding of the character and understands that action alone is not enough. (RH) **7**

Green Lantern 53 <-> (Marz & Banks + Tanghal) Superman and the new Green Lantern confront Mongul in uninspired fight issue. (PCP) **3**

<+ -> Superman joins the new GL's fight with Mongul in a pretty typical "So you're the new guy, what happened to the old guy?" story that is reasonably well-handled — but why isn't Clark more curious about Hal's whereabouts? (RH) **6**

Hawkman 11 <- +> (Messner-Loebs + Seagle & Lieber + Minor + Shoultz) Golden Age Hawkman turns on modern day counterpart when psyche is corrupted by mysterious alien Hawk-God. Series takes a turn for the better with vast improvement in script, visuals and colouring. (PCP) **6**

<-> *Zero Hour* begins to twist the time stream in Chicago and the old and new Hawks get involved in a battle between rival gangs. The writers create a nice sense of impending doom, but the art only succeeds in places. (RH) **6**

Hellblazer 78 (Vertigo; Ennis & Dillon) Ennis' final storyline begins, putting the various elements in place for what could possibly be the nastiest confrontation between Hell and Constantine yet. Again this title features some good characterisation, but I felt this was undermined this issue by the appearance of the *Bastard* policemen, a cliche which Ennis seems overly fond of using. (MG) **7**

Hellblazer 79 (Ennis & Dillon) Showing Ennis has great taste, he names Nigel's dead goldfish, Vic and Bob. Urban lifestyle mixed with the supernatural makes this comic a great read and unlike many others being published, the only other one Doctor Faust, can't grasp the characters as well as Ennis can. Truth of the past is revealed and game plans are set in action. This is probably a key book that will plot the end of Ennis's arc on the book. (RJJ) **9**

<+ -> While a race war brews in London, Constantine continues to prepare himself for his showdown with the devil. Ennis continues to play with our sympathies — do we love John, or hate the cruel side of him that so easily tortures and laughs at Gabriel? Nobody is innocent in this book. (RH) **8**

<+ -> Constantine seeks to gather his forces to combat Hell, against a background of urban menace. I will miss Ennis when he leaves this book. His writing is not exactly subtle, but the stories are so powerful that the reader can't help being swept along with them. This is no exception, a gripping mixture of brutality and dark humour. (RHo) **9**

Justice League International Annual 5 (Jones & Chansamone + various) *Elseworlds* episode which turns the League members into villains when hunted by paranoid humanity. It's been done to death in the mutant books although Jones puts enough of a spin onto the shenanigans to make it readable.

Chansamone shows artistic flair. (PCP) 6

Legionnaires 16 <+> (Waid + Gardner & Cramer) 30th Century timeline continues to unravel as supposedly dead or non-existent Legionnaires flit in and out of continuity. A superb brain teaser. (PCP) 7

Lobo Annual 2 (Grant & various) Western movies and TV shows are given the Lobo treatment in *Elseworlds* send up of the genre. Most of the jokes work though it's far from being a rib-tickler. (PCP) 5

New Titans Annual 10 (Wolfman + L. Simonson & S. Lee + various) Titans visit Conan territory in *Elseworlds* retelling of their origin. Only the Deodato cover is worth the hefty entrance fee. (PCP) 1

Ray 2 <+> (Priest & Porter + Jones) Superboy and the Ray bury their differences for a final assault on Brimstone. Stunning artwork helps elevate seen-it-before plot. (PCP) 6

Robin 8 <- +> (Dixon & Grummett + Kryssing) Everbody breathes a sigh of relief as the secret behind the "murder" Bruce committed is revealed. Robin and Nightwing continue to work well together and Bane starts to stir again. Things are hotting up. (RH) 8

Sandman 61 <-> (Gaiman & Hempel + D'Israeli) "You know what sticks people to something?" asks Loki on the final page of this issue. "The desire to see how it's all going to end." Now on his final story arc, there's a sense in which Gaiman is delaying the inevitable — the writing is fascinating as always, but very little has actually happened over the last few months and it's starting to get a little annoying. (RH) 8

Scarab 8 (Vertigo; Smith & Eaton) Louis's wife awakens in a very different form, as the fabric of reality threatens to unravel. I originally advocated that this mini-series be extended to a regular run, now I'm not so sure. While Smith has a large amount of very good ideas sometimes they don't always hit the target, which isn't particularly helped by his indulgence in purple-coloured prose. (MG) 5

<+> Gratuitous Bunnies aside, the wrapping up of this book provides surprising twists and reinterpretations of what went before. On rereading the series, there is a much greater sense of the whole. The sum exceeds its parts. Still a bit too superhero-like for the comic but I can live with that. (RJJ) 7

Shade 49 (Milligan & Bachalo + various) Its getting close to issue 50 and the birth of Shade's child looks to be a big event. With all sides clustering for a piece of the action, can Shade fend off all sides for the woman he loves? We find Kathy's problematic past and reason for past actions. Milligan has given these characters personality and depth that is oh so rare these days. Watch out, there's a storm coming. (RJJ) 9

<+ -> It's very easy to be deceived by Shade, to be put off by the apparent incomprehensibility , or rampant strangeness. But Milligan has a knack, as here, for suddenly lifting the veil and revealing all these apparently disjointed ideas for what they are — stories of layered and logical construction, full of passion. (MS) 9

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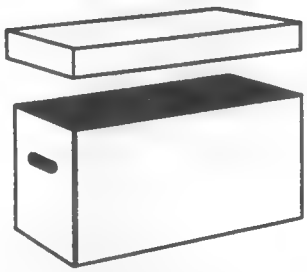

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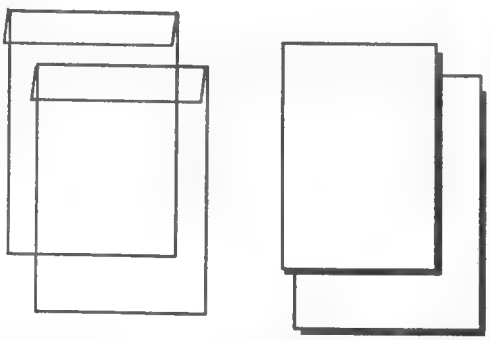

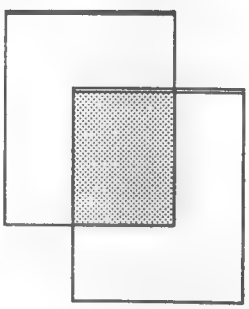

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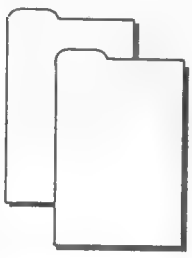

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Shade 50 <+ -> (Milligan & Bachalo + Buckingham + Bryant) Shade tries to escape the influence of both devils and angels and save Kathy and her child. He fails. Kathy's death, as her life, is a genuine tragedy and it's difficult not to shed a tear as we say farewell to her — and Chris Bachalo — for the final time. How will Shade survive without them? (RH) **9**

Spectre 20 <+ -> (Vertigo; Ostrander & Ridgway) Prof Hazzard tries to find out more about the Spectre's personality and possible weaknesses by seeking out old (and I do mean *old*) members of the JSA. A nicely handled issue featuring superb artwork and beautiful colouring by Carla Feeny. Ostrander manages to avoid the pitfalls connected with such a continuity laden story, by letting the myriad references slip gently past rather than smash you over the head with them to make sure you get the point. (MG) **8**

<+> Hazard interviews various members of the JSA learning of their fears and discomfort in their dealings with The Spectre. Thought-provoking episode expertly strings together past continuity and a detour to the realm of the Dreaming. (PCP) **9**

Steel Annual 1 (J + J.K. Bogdanove & Ramos + various) *Elseworld* episode has John Henry Irons growing up as a slave on a pre-civil war plantation. One dimensional caricatures parade through a cliche ridden soap-opera. (PCP) **2**

Reasonable *Roots*-like *Elseworlds* story with occasionally inspired art about John Henry Irons as a slave in a particularly nasty deep South. Steel and his wife Phyliss are portrayed well, but the supporting characters lack any conviction. A good story let down by the unnecessary patronisation of blacks. (PH) **5**

Superboy 6 <-> (Kesel & Grummett + Hazelwood) Superboy clashes with the Parasite, definitely the most one-dimensional villain in comics, every story he appears in seems identical. Great art and witty script, but the plot is a big fight scene and the slip into yet another crossover (this time with Milestone) is hardly appreciated. (RH) **6**

Superman Annual 6 (Vincenzo & Fosco + Woch) *Elseworlds* saga that relies heavily on Kipling's **Jungle Book** and Burrough's **Tarzan** in a hokey plot that has orphaned Kal-El raised by wolves. Coincidences and cliches abound. (PCP) **2**

Superman/Doomsday: Hunter/Prey 3 <+ -> (Jurgens & Breeding)The final showdown between Supes and his killer is a well-handled and slightly more intelligent than usual fight scene with strong clean artwork, bright colours and a sparse script. No frills, but still quite a nive package. (RH)**7**

<+> Sowing the seeds of *Zero Hour*, Waverider does the unthinkable and aids Superman in the final (?) destruction of the Kryptonian-created Doomsday. I had my doubts as to whether the ending would have been as plausible as it turned out to be, but with time about to do cart-wheels on itself, the end may have only been the beginning. (PH) **8**

Swamp Thing 143 (Vertigo; Morrison + Millar & Hester + DeMulder) Swampy manages to *get it together* so to speak, as the Parliament of Stones look set to stick their oar in. A fast paced issue, which powerfully conveys Alec's desperation as he tries unsuccessfully to persuade Abby to stay with him. (MG) **7**

Swamp Thing 144 (Millar & Hester + DeMulder) The return of Matt Cable as a human? No... but this extension of the Swamp Thing's abilities has the potential to expand the book past its trapping of the last 50 or so issues. Hell brings its own agenda against Swampie as to other agencies... still reminds me of the old Hulk, guys! (RJJ) **7**

<+ -> Alex meets a damned priest, in a very satisfying opening to Millar's solo run. If he can avoid the more obvious *road movie* aspects and successfully juggle all the balls he already has in the air, he may continue to produce stories as creepy and effective as this. (MS) **8**

<+> Millar steps out on his own, and if anything the result is even better than his double-act with Morrison. Assuming the human form of Matt Cable, Alec searches for answers about his first wife. Genuinely frightening. (RH) **9**

Team Titans Annual 2 (Jensen + Jimenez & various) *Elseworlds* story that borrows heavily from **Star Wars** and fails in every department. (PCP) **1**

Witchcraft 1 (Vertigo; Robinson & Snejbjerg + Kristiansen) 14th Century reincarnated 2nd Century rape and murder victim is helped by the Three Witches in exacting revenge. Mythical storytelling rivals Gaiman at his best. Don't miss. (PCP) **10**

Witchcraft 2 (Robinson & Zulli + Kristiansen) As sex changes, so does personal agenda. This female dominated book has now to deal with a man as one of their own as Ursula is born as a man. Gypsies and witches give revelations but the revenge of Ursula and the Hecate is still not satisfied. This is probably the book that creates in me the greatest sense of anticipation, and its bloody annoying! (RJJ) **9**

<-> Our tale moves forward 600 years, but the witches have still not gained revenge on Cooth. If this episode just lacks some of the first's intriguing twists, it compensates with some sumptuous Victoriana from Michael Zulli. (MS) **8**

Lavish, moody artwork from Zulli makes this another enjoyable chapter, with the Witches' revenge thwarted once again in Victorian England. I'm also really impressed by Robinson's highly readable script and the obvious attention to detail that's gone into this book. (RH) **9**

MARVEL COMICS

Amazing Spider-Man 392 <+ -> (DeMatteis & Bagley + Emberlin) Aunt May's stroke is the final straw for Pete and he retreats into a cocoon of webs, becoming the Spider, and leaving Parker behind. By rights, I should abhor this "dark Spidey" thing, but DeMatteis writes it so well, and manages to avoid all the inherent cliches, that it's just rivetting. (RH) **9**

Blade 1 (Edginton & Wheatley + Ivy) Following the demise of the Nightstalkers, Blade wants to lead an ordinary life, but stumbles upon a

nest of vampires and their yuppie leader. A promising start and the Image-style art is eye-catching. Edgington seems to have lots of good ideas, but Blade himself is a tad predictable as a character. (RHo) 7

Brats Bizarre 3 (Mills + Skinner & Adhikary) More violent but less sexual escapes with the Brats, with slightly less impact than before. The absence of Mighten's work hurts but new revelations and genuine emotion make up a very solid book indeed. (RJJ) 7

Daredevil 330 <+ -> (Chichester & McDaniel + Collazo) DD has always been one of my favourites and the present creators are certainly not disgracing the title. The various sub-plots and the running debate on the New Technology keep the interest high. On the minus side, Elektra is being stripped of much of her mystery, while Gambit makes a somewhat irrelevant appearance which hardly merits his starring role on the cover. (RHo) 7

Ghost Rider 2099 #3 (Kaminski & Bachalo + Gross + Buckingham + Sutherland) The art on this book is muddled. What with all the Bachalo aping artists doing their best, the book has a very techno-look to it, but the story has little to recommend it. Kaminski keeps tight characters but cliches and bad planning make it a lost cause. (RJJ) 5

Groo 114 <+ -> (Aragones & Evanier) Groo finds himself among a gang of thieves who live high in the clouds and travel via giant birds. Needless to say, if God had intended Groo to fly, he'd have invented more parachutes. More mindless fun. (RH) 9

Hellstorm 16 <+ -> (Ellis & Manco) "Devil-Breaker" Stephen Loss arrives on Daimon's doorstep and reveals the secrets of Hellstorm's confrontation with his father. Now Daimon himself is king of hell will he still be able to retain his human side? A fascinating portrait of a man cursed by the sins of his father — and with Bolland now on the covers, this book is unmissable. (RH) 9

The truth about Daimon is revealed, to shocking effect. This title has set a high standard recently which it continues to maintain. Manco's art is suitably dark and grimy, while Ellis is clearly having a whale of a time. (RHo) 8

Incredible Hulk 419 <-< (David & Cruz + Smith) The art suffers from Frank's skip month, and I hope the title can keep its orders up when Frank leaves permanently. David's strong characterisation turns what might have been a dull fill in book, into a great epilogue for the wedding story. The gratuitous fight scenes aren't too gratuitous and are carefully choreographed. An unconventional ending wraps this book up nicely. (RJJ) 8

<-> A filler issue, with Cruz playing Jim Lee wannabe, is given a boost by a welcome shot of David humour — even if he can't help exhibiting a little glib sentimentality along the way. (MS) 7

<-> Talos the Tamed tries to commit suicide using the Hulk as a method in an average breather issue. There's a nice scene between Rick and Betty, but the guest artist (another sub-Image copycat) has trouble with anything but fight scenes. (RH) 7

Incredible Hulk 420 <+ +> (David & Frank + Smith) Superbly executed morality tale about the horrors, physically and psychologically, of AIDS. Genuinely shocking story from the current Marvel team-supreme, it is sure to offend no end of deep-South Christian-fundamentalists who don't want to see this "sort of thing" in their comic books. (PH) 9

The Last Temptation of Alice 1 (Gaiman & Zulli) Zulli's art is suited to this horrific, yet mundane, story of a boy who sees possibilities that are destined to haunt him for a long time.

Uncanny X-Men 314 <-> (Lobdell & Cruz + various) There's bad vibes coming from all corners of the Acolytes camp in a competent fill-in while the regular artists prepare for the *Generation Next* x-over. Lobdell tries a Claremont-like all dialogue issue and fails to hold the readers attention till the end. And the last panel indicates that Marvel has no sense of plot development any more. (PH) 5

X-Force 36 <+> (Nicieza & Daniel + various) Where the other X-books appear to be floundering, this title has suddenly started to take a direction again. Artist Daniel, after a poor start, is beginning to show signs of future potential and Nicieza's use of this book to tie up old X-Men plots makes it a continuity buff's dream. Not the book that Rob Liefeld created.(PH) 7

INDEPENDENTS

Aliens/Predator Deadliest of the Species 6 (Dark Horse; Claremont & Barreto) More machinations as humans, aliens and predators all get down and groove. Mid-series... the direction of the book seems to be slipping. While I have no doubt that Claremont will be able to pull it off, there is some lack of direction evident. I just hope that Dark Horse will give him a helpful shove. We also get some Danger Room-y references which help smooth the book along. (RJJ) 6

Bizarre Heroes 2 (Fiasco Comics; Simpson) Simpson's characters all find their feet as his attempt at a storyline to bring his characters together continues, including some of the most outrageous retconning in comics history! For all of you who liked comics when they were plain fun, check this one out! (RJJ) 8

Bone 14 (Cartoon Books; Smith) Smiley saves the day as the Rat Creatures get a tad more aggressive. The dream subplot seems to have strong consequences and the ending is one of those that will keep you looking out for the next issue. Despite being very well ordered in the US, outselling Cerebus 3 to 1, Bone is still being drastically underordered in Britain. Selling out almost immediately, you'd think some shops might order a tad more copies for the shelf. (RJJ) 8

<+ -> Phoney and Siley have another run in with the rat creatures while Fone Bone and Thorn begin to examine the meaning behind their dreams — and hence, more clues to Jeff Smith's grand scheme are revealed. Delightful. (RH) 9

'Breed 6 (Bravura; Starlin) Starlin takes lessons from Liefeld and finds splash pages abound, if you like a lot

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of fighting, this is the story for you. In **Cerebus** at least we get some text pages, here, it's just a **Youngblood** ripoff. The entire series has just seemed like some kind of preview to another series. Based on this, I doubt I'll look any further. (RJJ) **2**

Despite the fact that this series has meandered at times, it proved to be a very good introduction to a character I hope we will see more of. Starlin proves that the oldies are the besties and outshines his young antecedents. (PH) **7**

<+ -> The final showdown between Raymond and a bunch of other 'Breed falls fowl of a few too many *origin* story cliches, such as the mentor-killed-in-battle-so-hero-has-to-avenge thing. However the ending itself is unexpected and the art is gorgeous. I for one am looking forward to **Breed II** in November. (RH) **7**

Brinke of Eternity 1 (Chaos; Stevens + Pulido & Holliman + M. Morales) Real life scream queen siren Brinke Stevens provides the story for SF potboiler that pits scantily clad half human alien against her overlords who have decreed Earth must be destroyed. Formula script, but there's no faulting the artistic contribution. (PCP) **4**

Cerebus 183 (Aardvark-Vanahiem; Sim & Gerhard) Cirin and Cerebus get a glimpse of Earth-Prime and the fight of Cerebus' life continues. Sim starts up his anti-reader rant in Viktor Davis. A fascinating look at the mind of a creator and the bridge between the two worlds grows. (RJJ) **8**

Sim appears to be changing the direction of this series from the adventures of Cerebus into his own autobiography. Sim has smoothly transformed the focus of the series and he gives us an issue which continually baffles the reader into not quite knowing what is happening, especially with his alter-ego, Viktor Davis. (PH) **8**

Charlemagne 3 (Defiant; Chichester & Pollina) Partially swiped from **Screwtape Letters**? Possibly, but not carried out with the same maturity. The duality of universes works a lot better in **Maxx**. Motivation for character action is poor, as if the story was driving the characters, which can work well, but the attempted "realism" works against that. This seems to be a very strong "concept" book, but it needs character and plot links between these concepts to make them work. (RJJ) **5**

Danger Unlimited 4 (Dark Horse; Byrne) Characters drive the story well and its simplicity is used as a strong motivator for the book. The Torch of Liberty story fits the period well and helps bring a sense of perspective to the book. A great shame that it ends here. (RJJ) **8**

What began looking very much like Byrne back on the **Fantastic Four** has twisted in a totally unexpected direction and it's a great shame the sales weren't higher, because the last issue shows a real potential that may never be realised now. (RH) **8**

Dork 2 (Slave Labor Graphics; Dorkin & Baker) Another hilarious and at times quite sick selection of strips from the self-confessed misanthrope Dorkin. including the black sitcom *Murder Family*, some pretty funny music & fashion criticism and a baby in a microwave. (RH) **8**

A great compilation of strips; *Murder Family, Milk & Cheese, Fisher Price*. The music reviews are quite inspiring and the music type on the back page is stunningly funny as is the "Realistic Sex". (RJJ) **9**

Dreadstar 2 <+ -> (Bravura; David & Colon) Kalla, Teuton and Papal go in search of other members of vanth's old team. Still a little slow going, there are some nice gags here from David, but the promised explanation of Vanth's fate is not delivered and Colon's art looks a little rushed in places. (RH) **6**

Femforce 72 (AC; Black + various) Multi-layered issue follows the fortunes of the exiled Rur warrior Proxima, and a battle between Ms Victory and the time displaced Nazi Valkyra, whilst Red Devil meets a returned-from-the-dead Fighting Yank as a set up for issue 74. Plot threads blend smoothly. Quality entertainment delivered without hype or gimmicks. (PCP) **7**

Grendel Tales: Devil in our Midst 1 (Dark Horse; Seagle & Grist) Grist's debut on Grendel is absolutely stunning and takes this book to a new height. The simplistic outlines and blocks, a relief from the current crop of artists, gives this book greater emotional flavour. Cartoony artists have a grip over the human psyche that the more realistic artists can't hope to match. The story of a Grendel lost fits well and is full of enough mystery to remain enticing. (RJJ) **9**

Hellboy: Seed of Destruction 3 (Dark Horse; Mignola w/Byrne; Adams) Hellboy fights baddies and Monkeyman gets an education. Hellboy's strong magical and fascist mysticism blends well in this dark canopy that Mignola blacks in so well. The contrast of Adams sets well and separates the two comics stories. Is that a Sandman mask I see in Miss O'Brien's library? (RJJ) **9**

Hellboy's confrontation with the Nazi mage nears a climax. Byrne's script seems an albatross of mundanity around the imaginative Mignola's neck. His striking, gothic art is too often weighed down by Byrne's misplaced attempts to be hardboiled. (MS) **7**

Martha Washington Goes to War 1 (Dark Horse; Miller & Gibbons) Martha gets wounded during the second American Civil War, and discovers some old friends (and enemies) are not as dead as they'd seemed. Top quality stuff from Miller and Gibbons. Fast moving, lots of action, plus the return of one of the most terrifying characters in comics: the Surgeon-General! (RHo) **9**

The original **Give Me Liberty** series was an inventive, but rather heartless and heavy handed affair — though subtlety was never Miller's forte. Again, with **Martha Washington**, we seem to be being given a beautifully illustrated slice of 'so what?' dystopia — or am I just missing the point? (MS) **7**

Slightly slower to get moving than **Give Me Liberty**, this still has the ring of a class act with Miller continuing to dig deep into his twisted future America and Gibbons providing more class-A visuals. (RH) **8**

Maxx 8 (Image; Kieth w/Messner-

Loebs + Sinclair) Teeny weeny people meet a dense storyline of otherworlds, and foreign creatures and lumps of clay... This book is definitely worth putting aside any "Image snobbery" to buy. Deep and weird, it is one of the best mainstream comics currently being published. (RJJ) **9**

Medal of Honour 1 (Dark Horse; Murray & Kubert + Leiber) Routine — albeit real life — war dramas fail to dazzle save for the artistry of the master of the genre, Joe Kubert. Pity he only illustrates one of the two stories. But still an event given the demise of the war comic. (PCP) **4**

Next Men 26: Power, Part 3 (Dark Horse; Byrne w/Webb) Copyright problems aside, the Next Men world continues to be invaded by its own legends and the Next Men seem normal in comparison. We find out that Sandy's reality shifting powers go a whole lot deeper. I have no idea where Byrne is going and he may need to give his book some obvious direction. (RJJ) **8**

Sandy's power trip sends her insane and she comes close to destroying New York in the most intense super-powered fight scene Byrne has drawn in years. Like the best of Byrne's work though, it isn't just fighting for fighting's sake, but a character driven story that doesn't let up till the tragic end. (RH) **9**

Prudence & Caution 1 (Defiant; Claremont & Fern + various) Claremont produces one of his worst works to date as cliche and predictability mesh with super aliens and monsters. Stale dialogue and ropey art only increases its weaknesses. (RJJ) **2**

Sentinels of Justice 1 (AC; Black & Ayers + Black) Debut of AC's Compact Comics line (issued with polybagged editions of **Femforce** 72) centres on the Avenger as he seeks to rescue his 50s secretary from the clutches of former nemesis — The Player. Superheroic action doesn't falter yet allows for adequate character interplay and development. The 32 page b&w package wraps up with the 50s origin of The Avenger, recently acknowledged as the first Silver Age superhero. (PCP) **7**

Spawn 21 Though I feel a fanboy to admit it, this isn't a half bad comic, with Todd back at the helm. To be sure, he makes his influences rather too obvious, but his script isn't bad, the art is gorgeous, and it's only his long-term plotting that still seems seriously in question. And with the Mafia, impromptu facial surgery for our hero and a corrupt CIA all in the mix, this may just yet be the superhero for the '90s. (MS) **9**

Ultraforce 0A (Ultraverse + Wizard; Jones & Perez + Vey) Return of Ghoul of the Exiles sparks terror in the minds of humanity that inspires Prime to forge a new team of Ultra heroes. Part one of a two part teaser leading up to the series regular debuting in August. Shows promise. (PCP) **7**

Violator 1 (Image; Moore & Sears + Pennington) It's been a long time since *DR & Quinch* but Moore hasn't forgotten how sharply funny, sick and twisted as comics can be, this parody of the current comic form is a self contained masterpiece. Stretching limits of acceptability, all fourteen year olds will love it (as well as us immature 21 year olds!). (RJJ) **9**

Though it's *still* hard to believe this is *the* Alan Moore's brainchild, it actually rather good. A spawn of **Spawn**, it showcases sick bad guy the Violator in all his gory glory — and gory it certainly is. While Moore plays an amusing game of 'bait-the-fundamentalist', though, co-conspirator Sears is producing an equally taboo-squashing piece of work, full of fabulous, and horrible, detail. (MS) **10**

Violator is being pursued by the Admonisher and is totally unprepared for a family reunion. Hilariously gruesome, this is definitely not for the squeamish! The artwork is stunning and the script is very funny. It would be great however, to see Alan Moore return to mainstream comics on a more serious project. (RHo) **9**

White Like She 1 (Dark Horse; Fingerman) I'd not come across Bob Fingerman until this came out and while I'm not totally convinced that his scripting techniques are fully developed, his art is distinct enough to carry this off. The story is about a black janitor, involved in a nuclear power station accident, who gets his brain placed in the head of an insurgent seventeen year old Jewish lesbian. A truly unreal setting and all very contrived, but I liked it. (PH) **7**

Wiindows (Gaiman + Berg + Graff + Leon) Gaiman's *Luther's Villanelle* is the weak point of this issue as the star feature, *Magic Flying Amazing Fish* tells a childhood story of hope and rejection. Hopefully Gaiman's name will have helped sell more copies of this title and maybe some will try it out again. (RJJ) **8**

Wolf & Byrd: Counsellors of the Macabre 1 (Exhibit A Press; Lash) Dog returns from the grave resulting in several law suits against its former owners. Enter Wolf & Byrd and a barrel load of puns, comical one-liners and a clever story that pokes fun at the legal profession and the horror genre without descending into inanity. A shame it won't have wider market attention. (PCP) **7**

UK TITLES

Judge Dredd the Megazine 55 <+> Dredd takes a turn towards the predictable as he refuses an anaesthetic for his massive injuries because he's "got a job to finish". The Villain is still endlessly watchable, though. Coming to end is the gritty, manga-influenced tale, *Shimura* and Frank Quitely's last outing on *Missionary Man* for a while, although the strip is back next issue with a new artist. (DP) **9**

2000AD 892 <+> Wagner and Harrison paint a dark picture of conspiracy in Dredd's world, as the story builds up to Dredd's next major adventure. Elsewhere, *Armoured Gideon* sees the return of old Cockney reject 2000AD character Bill Savage, who turns up in time to be gored to death by Shako, the Killer Bear. Watch out for a sinew-twanging sound to send a shiver down your spine. (DP) **8**

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POST-SILVER AGE

Comics from the 1970s to date: Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age up to Platinum Age-Valiant Age-Image Age. Historians will doubtless decide on a name.

■ **Comics Warehouse,** PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 0621 850351

■ **Cosmic Comics,** PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Darkside,** 100 Nightingale Lane, London E11 2HE (wants, CoBRA) 081 989 9955

NEW **David Johnson Comics,** 45 Broadmead, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 9AW (s-cat, dis, s-wants)

■ **Heritage Comics,** 195 High Street, Alsagers Bank, Stoke on Trent, ST7 8BA (cat, wants) 0782 723329

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

HOT COMICS

Current or key titles, usually first issues or first appearances of major characters. Investment titles for speculators willing to gamble on what will increase in value.

■ **Comics Unlimited,** Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. (wants, CoBRA) 0462 480018

■ **Cosmic Comics,** PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Darkside,** 100 Nightingale Lane, London E11 2HE (wants, CoBRA) 081 989 9955

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

■ **Floppy Tongue,** 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7QY (w/s, wants, CoBRA) 0722 331107

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

ADVANCE IMPORTS

US comics are not in newsagents, except for almost all DCs and most $1.25 Marvels, shipped seafreight. The following offer air-shipped copies from all major publishers.

■ **ACE Comics,** 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0206 561912

■ **Beyond Comics & Books,** 1 Ballina St, London SE23 1DR (s-cat, s-wants, CoBRA) 081 291 7171

■ **Comics Unlimited,** Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Herts SG6 3ET (s-cat,s-wants) 0462 480018

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

■ **Floppy Tongue,** 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7QY (cat, w/s, wants, CoBRA) 0722 331107

■ **Forbidden Planet,** 71 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG (s-cat, cc) 071 497 2150

■ **Gosh! Strips by Mail,** 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 071 636 1011

■ **Mega-City Comics,** 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, cc, CoBRA) 071 485 9320

■ **Planet X,** 5 London Road, Worcester WR5 2DJ (wants,CoBRA) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Red Hot Comics,** 42 Berridale Ave, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 3AE (CoBRA, s-wants) 041-637 0162 (10am-11pm)

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

■ **Timezone,** 12 Fish Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR (dis, cat, wants) 0743 365192

LIMITED EDITIONS

Many high-profile mini-series and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print-run "ashcan" editions (ash).

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s&n, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Darkside,** 100 Nightingale Lane, London E11 2HE (wants, CoBRA, ash) 081 989 9955

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc, s&n) 081-298 1363

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc, ash, s&n) 081-449 5535

TRADING CARDS

An increasing number of traders carry a wide range of comics-related trading cards and their peripherals (files, folders, etc).

■ **Adventure Seekers!,** 105 Hullbrook Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B13 OLE (cat, wants) 021 444 0986

NEW **Discount Trading Cards,** 18 Birch Avenue, Romiley, Stockport SK6 4DG (cat, wants, dis, CoBRA) 061 494 8369

■ **Fantasy Domain,** 212 Grange Rd, Plaistow, London E13 0HB (s-cat, s-wants, CoBRA)

■ **First Choice Cards,** 11 Keith Avenue, Liverpool L4 5SL (cat, wants, CoBRA)

■ **Floppy Tongue,** 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7QY (cat, w/s, wants, CoBRA) 0722 331107

■ **Next Millennium,** 14 Newark Way, Hendon, London NW4 4JL (wants, dis) 081-203 0014

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

■ **Timezone,** 12 Fish Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR (dis, cat, wants) 0743 365192

ORIGINAL ART

With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available.

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

PORTFOLIOS & PRINTS

Specialists in high quality images, of American and/or European origin.

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

MERCHANDISE

Comics-related t-shirts, posters, video games, video films, badges, etc.

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Rd, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

PERIPHERALS

Acid-free protection for valuable comics. Backing boards, bags, storage boxes, etc.

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, cc, s-cat) 081-659 9714

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc, s&n) 081-298 1363

■ **Incognito,** 14 Starnes Court, Union Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) Phone/fax 0622-683642

■ **Just Comics,** 2 Crossmead Ave, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9TY (w/s only, CoBRA) 081 578 1308

■ **Stateside Comics PLC,** 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, EN4 8RF (dis, CoBRA, cc) 081-449 5535

COMICS AUCTIONS

Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions can provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their comics.

■ **Comic Book Postal Auctions Limited,** 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 071 586 3007

■ **Flights of Fantasy,** 82b Broadway, Bexleyheath DA6 7LW (cat) 081-298 1363

MANGA TITLES

English language translations and Japanese-style American comics.

■ **ACE Comics,** 1 Headgate Buildings, St Johns Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 0206 561912

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc) 081-298 1363

ART & REFERENCE

Comics history reference magazines & books (ref) plus art books (art) and newspaper strip compilations (strip).

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, ref, art, strip, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, ref, cc) 081-298 1363

ALTERNATIVE & BIOG

The following carry an extensive range of biographical and slice-of-life titles (Fantagraphics, Maus, Crumb, Pekar, etc)

■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

■ **Gosh! Strips by Mail,** 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 071 636 1011

■ **Knockabout Comics,** 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (w/s, s-cat, cc) 081 969 2945 (fax: 081 968 7614)

AMERICAN COMICS DISTRIBUTORS

Anybody considering opening a comics specialist shop can obtain further information about the supply of titles from any of the following wholesalers, who air-freight bulk copies of North American comics and related items into Britain on a weekly basis:

■ **Diamond Comic Distributors,** Unit 3, Crown Business Estate, Horton Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8BR 0895-431 582

■ **Titan Distributors,** Unit 1, Empson Street, London E3 3LT 071 538 8300

■ **First Choice Wholesale,** 8 Galliford Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD 0621 851 651

In addition, copies of DCs and selected Marvel titles are available to newstrade outlets from their national UK distributors, who ship copies sea-freight from America.

■ **Comag** (selected Marvel US plus Fleetway & other UK titles) 08954 44055

■ **Portman Distribution** (full range of DC comics only) 0533 693861

ADVERTISING RATES

Traders: **Comics International**'s *Mail Order Index* is the UK's most cost-effective way of advertising your specialised service to a huge and dedicated audience.

Each single entry in this index is only £3.00, and is bookable as a 6-issue series entry for mail order services.

Name, address and relevant details as described in above abbreviations code should be sent with pre-payment of £18 plus VAT (£21.15 total) for each section to:

Comics International
8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

THE COMICS WAREHOUSE

PO BOX 600, 8 GALLIFORD ROAD, MALDON, ESSEX CM9 7XD

THE CLEARANCE CENTRE FOR PUBLISHER'S OVERSTOCKS AND REMAINDERS

Mail Order CoBRA Protection

The Comic Book Business appears to be going through another interesting phase this summer. With DC numbering every single mainstream title in August as Zero, where does that leave numbering sequences for collectors, dealers and price guides? Marvel on the other hand were roundly chastised by almost the entire business in the USA for "Marvel Mart". For those of you who came in late, Marvel Mart was a direct to consumer catalogue produced by Marvel, it contained a lot of comics which were going up in price on the back issues market, because they were in short supply and Marvel said that re-orders could not be filled, whilst, all the time, they had a warehouse full of the stuff. Marvel caved in under enormous criticism and released the previously "unavailable" books to the retail trade. They had so many that we managed to get some too and you'll find them in this advert under the heading of "Marvels Greatest Collectors Packs"; and no guys, we are not going to split the packs.

We've put a lot more reader friendly story arcs together as "sets" to give you easy entry points into different series, along with inexpensive giant packs of lots of comics. Let us know how you view these experiments. As always we are guided by what our customers want and all suggestions to improve our service are welcome.

Its such positive reactions that have given us the confidence to expand into other magazine areas like movies, special effects,. Manga, Anime, horror and U.S. news and review price guides, like Overstreet and Hero. These monthly guides are well worth reading (especially at the prices we can sell them for) with Overstreet badged as the "serious guide for serious collectors" containing market reports and news to Hero, mostly polybagged with freebies and also publishing all colour specials like Batman, Science Fiction and The Year in Review.

All are welcome to shop in the Warehouse where we have well over half a million items for your visual and cerebral pleasure.

Please remember that all of our advertisements are completely self-contained and cannot be mixed or matched with any other advertisement or offer. The prices in this ad are valid from the publication of Comics International until September 30th only. All prices are per copy except "set" or "pack" prices which are for single sets as advertised, and remember that when ordering "mature" titles such as "vertigo" we must have your honest signed statement that you are in excess of sixteen years. Thank you for reading this far, time to give your brain a workout. The Warehouse is now open for business....

Representing "Your Right to Read". We believe you have the right to be able to afford and enjoy comics

The minimum order is just £5.00 with a flat fee of £2.00 for delivery mainland UK: ,whatever the size of the order. See the third page of our advertisement for ordering instructions. (Early Warning: Due to constantly increasing costs our flat rate fee for shipping must go up to £3.00 per parcel mainland UK as from September 1st 1994).

Please note: to improve despatch we print our computer codes used for each title (eg DC71 = Batman: M300 = Uncanny X-Men). It would be extremely helpful to us if you would give the relevant computer code with your order, whether verbally with telephone orders or when listing written orders.

DC1: ACTION COMICS 585,586,603-607,610,661 664-683,686-699 .....£0.40 685..... £0.70

DC2D: ACTION 687 Special Collectors Edition Die-Cut Cover.....£0.75

DC2E: ACTION 695: Embossed cover version.....£0.75

DC4: ACTION ANNUAL 4,5.....£0.40

DC21: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 440-442,473,474,477 496,499-512.....£0.40

DC21C: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 500 Collectors edition, eight extra story pages, polybagged with trading card £0.80

DC21D: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 501 Collectors edition, die-cut cover.....£0.60

DC21E: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 505 Collectors Edition Prism Cover.....£0.60

DC23: AGENT LIBERTY One Shot.....£0.35

DC24: ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL 3,4,5 .....£0.50

DC40: ANIMA 1-2.....£0.60

DC50: AQUAMAN: TIME & TIDE Mini series by Peter David 1-4 .....£0.60

DC50A: AQUAMAN TIME & TIDE Full set of all four issues just...**£1.75**

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DC60: ARION: All 6 issues; set price£1.25

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DC66: ARMAGEDDON Alien Agenda and Inferno: All 8 issues;set price ..£1.20

DC69: ATOM Special g\s 1993 .....£0.50

DC71:BATMAN: 420,421 .....£0.95 434,435,441,442 ....£0.30 443-445,458,461-469£0.40 470-487 .....£0.35 488 (Azrael).....£2.50 489-491 (Prequel) ..£0.75 492 (Knightfall Pt1).£0.95 493-496 .....£0.60 497 (Backbreaker)..£0.95 498-508 .....£0.60

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DC72: BATMAN Adventures 4-20 .. £0.40

DC72A: MASK OF THE PHANTASM: Prestige Movie Adaptation ...£1.75

DC72C: BATMAN ANIMATED: Mask of the Phantasm, the Animated Movie official Comics Adaptation £0.95

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DC75: BATMAN Gotham Nights Set of four.....£0.75

DC78: BATMAN: Seduction of the Gun (Special) £0.65

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DC81: BATMAN Full Circle (Prestige).....£1.25

DC83: BATMAN: Master of the Future (Prestige) an Elseworlds story £0.75

DC88: BATMAN HOUDINI: The Devil's Workshop (prestige Elseworlds)£1.95

DC89: BATMAN: In Darkest Knight, prestige elseworlds story in which Bruce Wayne becomes the Bat Green Lantern £1.65

DC90: BATMAN: Two face STRIKES TWICE (Prestige: flipover format, one side in the art style of the 40's, the flip side is modern painted art, an intriguing idea) 1,2.£1.25

DC91: BATMAN Vs PREDATOR 1 ..... £0.60 2,3 .....£0.95

DC92: BATMAN Vs PREDATOR (Prestige) 2,3 .....£1.65

DC95: BATMAN; Run Riddler Run (Prestige) 1 .....£0.80

DC96: BATMAN; Shadow of the Bat 1,3-6 .....£0.80 7-23 .....£0.50 24-26 .....£0.80

DC96A: BATMAN: Shadow of the Bat ANNUAL 1.....£0.60

DC102: BLACK CANARY Four issue mini series 1992 Set of all four.£0.75

DC103A: Black Canary regular 1993 series. 1-12 as a set just....£2.95

DC106: BLACK MASK (3 part prestige mini-series by Brian Augustyn & Jim Baikie) 1-3.....£0.75

DC106A: BLACKMASK Full set of all three issues for..... £1.60.

DC110A: All 12 issues of Black Condor.....£1.95

DC118: BLOODBATH (Two part conclusion of last year's Bloodlines annuals saga in which all the super heroes combine to combat the spine sucking aliens) 1,2 .£1.25

DC140: CAMELOT 3000: Brian Bolland covers & interiors, Mike Barr writer 12 Issue Maxi Series 7,9,10,11,12 .....£0.60

DC141: CAPTAIN ATOM: 8,10-12,15-16,48-57 ..£0.25

DC145 CATWOMAN (Current Series) 1 .....£0.90 2-10 .....£0.50

DC155 MY NAME IS CHAOS 4 Issue prestige mini series 1,2,3,4 ....£0.50

DC162A: CONGORILLA (4 Issue Mini Series) Set of 4.....£0.95

DC181: CHAIN GANG WAR 1-10 .....£0.50

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DC188: DARKSTARS 1-19.....£0.50

DC188A: DARKSTARS: Issues 1-12 special pack price £3.95

DC191: DEATHSTROKE The Terminator 2-35.....£0.50

DC192: DEATHSTROKE Annual 1,2.....£0.50

DC193: DEATHSTROKE: 5 issue sampler of our choice just £0.95

DC199: DEMOLITION MAN 1,2,3,4 .....£0.50

DC199A: DEMOLITION MAN (Movie) Full set of four issues just £1.25

DC201: THE DEMON 6-8 .....£0.75 17-46 .....£0.40

DC203: DEMON Annual 1,2 .....£0.50

DC211: DETECTIVE COMICS 586,587,588,596,597, 599,601,602,608,610, 624,625 .....£0.40 626,627 .....£0.75 628-655 .....£0.35 656-674 .....£0.50

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DC248: ECLIPSO 1-18 .....£0.35

DC248A: ECLIPSO Annual 1 .....£0.50

DC255: FIRESTORM: 3,6,7,8,61,67,68,71-74 76,77 .....£0.30

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DC261: FLASH 13,14,45,46,51,52,54-78,80-90 .....£0.35 79 Giantsize conclusion to Barry Allan's "Return".....£0.60

DC261C: FLASH 80 Collectors Editions Prism Cover.....£0.75

DC262: FLASH Annual 5 .....£0.75 6 .....£0.50

DC263: FLASH: Five issues of our choice just £0.95

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DC286: THE GOLDEN AGE 4 part Prestige format Elseworlds Mini Series 1,2,3 .....£1.95

DC291: GREEN ARROW 64-85 ..... £0.35

DC292: GREEN ARROW Annual 5,6 .....£0.40

DC294: GREEN ARROW The Wonder Years 4 Issue Mini Series 1-4 .....£0.40

DC294A: GREEN ARROW; The Wonder Years. Mini series full set of 4 issues just.....£0.95

DC301: GREEN LANTERN. Emerald Dawn II Mini series 2,3,4,5.....£0.30

DC311: GREEN LANTERN 7,8,12-45 .....£0.30 46 The penultimate Reign of the Supermen chapter just .....£1.50 47,48,49 .....£0.80

DC312: GREEN LANTERN Quarterly g/s1-8 .....£0.50

DC313: GREEN LANTERN Annual 1,2.....£0.40

DC314: GREEN LANTERN Mosaic 1-18.....£0.30

DC314A: GREEN LANTERN MOSAIC: All 18 issues: pack price.....£3.95

DC321: THE GRIFFIN 6 Issue Prestige series. 1 .....£2.00 2-6.....£0.50

DC326: GUY GARDNER becomes Guy Gardner Warrior as of Issue 18 1-17.....£0.30 18 (Emerald Twilight starts), 19 .....£0.50

DC329: THE HACKER FILES 1-12.....£0.40

DC329A: THE HACKER FILES: complete set of 12 issues of this computer oriented story. Complete set just ...£2.95

DC330: HAMMERLOCKE 1-9 .....£0.40

DC330A: HAMMERLOCKE Nine issue space adventure saga, all nine issues for a pack price of £1.95

DC331: HAWK & DOVE 19-27.....£0.30

DC338: HAWKMAN Current series 1-8 ..£0.50

DC338A: HAWKMAN Annual 1993 .....£0.40

DC341: HAWKWORLD 7, 8,12,17-32.....£0.30

DC342: HAWKWORLD Annual 3 .....£0.40

DC343: HAWKS: A five issue sampler set of Hawkman/Hawkworld Books£0.95

DC346: HECKLER 1-6 .....£0.35

DC346A: THE HECKLER: Keith Giffins strange creation lasted 6 issues. We have all six issues as a pack for £1.25

DC359: HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (Prestige) 1,2,3.....£0.95

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DC391: JLA 13,14, 32,44-68,71-87.....£0.30

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DC451: L.E.G.I.O.N. 93 27, 34-49, 51-65.....£0.50 50 double sized.....£0.70

DC452: L.E.G.I.O.N. Annual - 3, 4.....£0.60

DC461: LEGION OF SUPERHEROES 24-49,51-56.....£0.50 Doublesized issue 50 .....£0.80

DC462: LEGION OF SUPERHEROES Annual 2,3,4 .....£0.50

DC470: LOBO: New 1994 ongoing series 1-4..£0.60

DC471A: LOBO Annual 1 .....£0.75

DC475: LOBO: Convention Special:£0.40

DC477: LOBO: Portrait of a Victim £0.50

DC478: LOBO: UnAmerican Gladiators 1-4.....£0.60

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DC488A: METAL MEN: All four issues pack price.....£1.25

DC502: METAMORPHO 4 issue mini series 1,2,3,4 .....£0.30

DC502A: METAMORPHO: All four issues pack price.....£0.75

Two to seven day consigned delivery Quality guaranteed Minimum order only £5.00

GRAPHIC NOVELS:

At The Warehouse, we are not really hoarders; nothing pleases us more than to send books out to happy reading homes, but, we do have an awful lot of merchandise that's been squirreled away recently, and its time to move those goods rather than see them collecting dust in storage bins in The Warehouse. So without further ado, I give you Phase One of our great summer clearance.

In this section this month, we have Graphic Novels and Collections. All books are soft covered U.S. editions unless stated otherwise and all are new books, many still shrink wrapped, on each title we've listed in brackets, for your reference, the retail dollar price, and/or the UK £ price, followed by our selling price per copy. There are some minor rules which we would like you to observe when ordering from this section. As usual the minimum acceptable order is £5.00, once you've reached that threshold in this section, you can add regular Comics to your heart's content. Similarly when ordering Comics, the minimum of £5 must be reached before adding Graphic Novels from this section. In other words, don't mix Comics & Graphic Novels to reach a minimum - thanks. Also stock on the Graphics is low (for us) so if you list a few alternatives we won't be displeased and you'll probably end up happy. All the other stuff in the ordering instructions is cool: as I said this is Phase One of our clearout, this section only contains as much as would fit, next time we'll have more, but different, from Magazines through Cards to eventually Toys. Remember don't order just for you, this is a great time to salt away a special Christmas Present surprise.... Happy Hunting....

G8: BATMAN: Blind Justice ($7.50) £3.95
G11: BATMAN: Digital Justic Hardcover ($24.95).....£12.95
G15: BATMAN: Animated The Collected Adventures Vol 1 ($5.95) £2.95
Vol 2 ($5.95) £2.95
G22: BATMAN: Dark Joker: The Wild Doug Moench & Kelly Jones Hardcover elseworlds ($24.95).....£13.95
G25: THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS by Frank Miller ($12.95).....£.7.95
G34: BATMAN DRACULA: Red Rain. Hardcover, elseworlds, Doug Moench & Kelly Jones ($24.95).....£13.95
G38: BATMAN: Son of the Demon: ($9.95) .£5.50
G42: BATMAN: A Death in the Family. Starlin & Aparo ($3.95).....£1.95
G51: BATMAN: The Killing Joke ($3.95) .£1.95
G57: BATMAN: In Darkest Knight ($12.95)..£7.95
G63: BATMAN: Prey: Moench & Gulacy ($12.95).....£7.95
G68: BATMAN: Sword of Azrael: ($9.95) £5.50
G73: BATMAN vs Predator ($5.95).....£2.95
G84: CAMELOT 3000 Barr & Bolland ($14.95).....£7.95
G86: CATWOMAN: Her Sister Keeper ($9.95)...£5.50
G104: DEATH: The High Cost of Living Vertigo Mature ($12.95).....£7.95
G105: DEATH: The High Cost of Living: Titan Edition (£7.99).....£5.50
G121: DOOM PATROL: Crawling from the Wreckage Vertigo Mature ($19.95)£9.95
G140: The Essential Showcase 1956-1959 ($19.95).....£9.95
G145: The Greatest 1950s Stories Ever Told Vol 5 ($14.95).....£7.95
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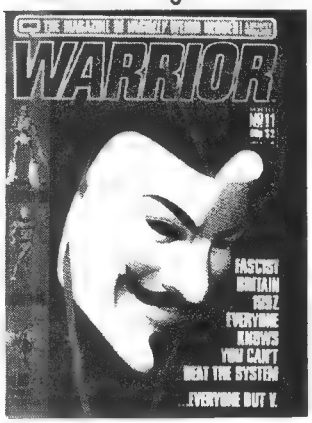

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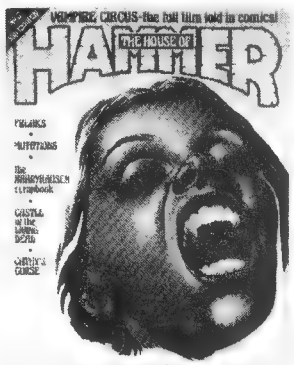
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Repackaged by Quality Communications as a full colour 32 page comicbook for US publishers Eclipse, **Miracleman** reprinted the award-winning *Marvelman* **Warrior** work of Alan Moore, Garry Leach and Alan Davis for American comic fans.

#1 (US edtn; Moore, Leach & Davis) **£1.50**
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In addition to **Brian Bolland's Black Book** and **John Bolton's Halls of Horror** (now out of print), Quality also packaged for Eclipse the **Pressbutton** 6-issue full-colour mini-series, featuring the work of Pedro Henry, Steve Dillon, Brian Bolland, Alan Davis, Mick Austin and Cam Kennedy.

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Artistic Values

A US retailer recently said "The creators we care about are producing characters we don't care about, and the characters we care about are being produced by creators we don't care about." A sentiment that is echoed by collectors and fans who grew up without all the creator-owned imprints that have appeared over the last five years.

But it is possible that one of the major publishers is about to turn back the clock. The latest rumour sweeping across the States is that Marvel will announce — at this year's San Diego Comic Convention — the return of some of the industry's top creators.

With the independent market suffering cancellations, postponements and poor sales from some of the new creator-owned titles, it is possible that such people as Larry Stroman, Whilce Portacio, Keith Giffen and even John Byrne could soon be returning to Marvel.

In an interview Whilce Portacio gave in 1992 — just before the formation of Image — he said he had always wanted to draw The Silver Surfer and Keith Giffen is believed to be working on a project to revive a 1970s Marvel superhero.

Rick Jones's secret

PETER DAVID has indicated that Rick Jones, Marvel's perennial side-kick, actually knows he is in a comic.

This explains why one of Marvel's oldest characters continually throws himself at danger without the aid of any super powers.

Made for hire

THE *one-in-five* different cover gimmick that made every fifth copy of **Prophet** #4 such a collectable item has struck again.

All of Homage Studio's current books have sported a Whilce Portacio cover on one in five copies.

A disappointing comeback for Portacio, his fans have been waiting for three years for **Wetworks**, only to discover that he's now sold it off to Homage's Jim Lee and is little more than an Homage gimmick.

These covers combine to make one big picture and so far have included **Kindred** 3, **Deathblow** 4 and **WildC.A.T.s** 11. Without being solicited as special covers, these *rare* copies are in demand at high prices, as much as eight times the cover price in some areas.

However, retailers lack of knowledge about this promotion has led to many shops quickly selling out of copies of the special edition, and finding the *standard* cover version sitting unsold on the shelves.

That fast disappearing breed, the speculator, it seems, caught wind of this latest Image wheeze long before anybody else and scoured the country for the rarities. Retail opinion is split over hoarding or selling at cover price, while speculators are rubbing their hands together in anticipation of finally making a killing.

Drowning by numbers

AQUAMAN, the undersea crime fighter (just how much crime is there under water?) is to go through a major change, in the wake of DC's success with Batman, Superman and Green Lantern.

He is going to lose one of his hands in battle and it will be replaced by a harpoon tip. The dramatic change happens in issue 2 of the new ongoing series (but none of you will see it as nobody orders it).

Writer of the series Peter David said that the reasons for the changes are to give the character more bite as well as to "goose" some life into him. Giving him a cutting edge, eh, Peter?

Orders for both the recently finished mini and the new series have been low, and Peter David blames retail apathy, seeing no possible interest in the character no matter what a writer does with him.

End of the Slave trade

JUSTICE League of America writer Dan Vado is having misgivings about his comic company, Slave Labor Graphics. Low sales and an increased difficulty to get shelf space means that Vado is thinking of pulling the plug on the ten year old independent company.

Slave Labor Graphics is renowned for its eclectic mox — including **Bluebeard** and **One-Fisted Tales** — and has introduced such creators as Kyle Baker, Evan Dorkin and Michael Alldred.

He said of his imprints impending doom, "Comic shops simply don't seem to recognise this fact and I receive little support."

Vado first gained public recognition with the release of his superb **The Griffin** series for DC in 1992, but has since been heavily criticised by fans for his handling of **Justice League America**.

Stranger than fiction

The following is from an article by J. Raloff, recently published in an American science journal:

What looks like some serpentine alien born in a grade-B SF flick is actually law enforcement's monster-sized answer to Silly String. Sandia National Laboratories originally developed its patented "sticky foam" in the 1960s for classified nuclear-safeguard functions.

About 18 months ago, the Justice Department's research arm commissioned Sandia to develop a portable sprayer for the material.

Explains Tom Goolsby, a mechanical engineer working on the project, "One of the new sprayers shoots out the material — which can travel up to 30 feet and "stays sticky forever" — as a 0.2 inch (5mm) stream of liquid. With the help of a chlorofluorocarbon gas however, the relatively non-toxic foam quickly expands to 50 times its original size, creating snakes of glue with a density near that of cotton balls.

In tests, the foam proved capable of

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Sounds like some scientist's been reading Spider-Man to us. Today web-fluid, tomorrow spider-sense?

Edged out

IAN Edgington is quitting **Blade** as of issue 8 apparently following a series of disagreements with the book's editor over direction, costume, plots and scripts.

Edgington is believed to have submitted no less than three years worth of storylines for the new title (Marvel usually asks for a year's worth of development ideas) only to find his least favourite ideas the most popular with his Harvard-educated editor.

But all is not bleak for Birmingham's Ian. He is writing this year's **X-Men Annual** to be drawn by fan-favourite Gene Ha and is also producing a follow-up to Peter David and Andy Kubert's **Wolverine: Rahne of Terror** one-shot graphic novel.

Marvel loses its puff

NOTHING to do with Northstar but picture this: Nick Fury not chomping on a stogie, Wolverine without the continuous stream of cigarettes and cigars, or even Reed (I'm dead but I'll get better) Richards without his pipe.

You'd better get used to it. Marvel is passing the ashtray to some of its most popular lung polluters.

Following a report by an American health commission that heroic characters seen smoking is a bad influence to young children, Marvel will be making a big issue out of Wolverine giving up smoking and Nick Fury chomping his last cigar.

But you can rest assured that villains will continue to smoke like chimneys, giving the Punisher more of an excuse to blow them away.

Avengers on the up

REMEMBER when hardly anybody read **The Incredible Hulk**, back in the days when Peter David and Todd McFarlane were unknowns. *Movers* told you to buy the book while you could still afford to.

Then last year we tipped you to how **The Avengers** was rising in sales and becoming highly readable.

Now it seems issues 355-372 are selling for huge premiums in an otherwise easy-to-find run. Issue 362 is selling for £5, while the **X-Men** crossover issues and the recently-completed year-long Gatherers story is selling for up to three times original cover price.

When writer Bob Harras and artist Steve Epting took over the book the general consensus was that *Earth's Mightiest Heroes* was about to enter another of its periodical declines. Three years on and that couldn't be further from the truth. Harras and Epting have taken a title featuring a string of second rate Marvel superheroes and turned it into a far more compelling read than any of the X-titles since Chris Claremont.

Talking of which, X-completists should seek out **Avengers** 334. Not only because it is drawn by Andy Kubert, but also because it is the issue that returns Quicksilver to the spotlight and leads directly into his joining X-Factor. The issue is currently selling for around £2 and is unlikely to get any cheaper. You have been warned.

Shakin' splinters

ONE of the biggest secrets in the industry at the moment is **Bone**'s appearance in colour in **Disney Adventures** #46.

The new story, *May the Force be with You*, has been specially commissioned for the Disney title.

The reason it's likely to remain little more than a secret in the UK is that Disney's ban of their US comics being imported (see **Comics International** #2, May 1990) is still being enforced. This means that the only copies which are likely to come over here will be through private speculators and dealers who order direct from the US.

This also begs the question, will the new Marvel Disney comics be distributed in this country?

BBC's Batman boob

COMIC fans eagerly following the Batman *Knights* saga and the serialised radio adaptation of *Knightfall* were dismayed when, in the second week of June, a BBC audiotape went on sale preempting the radio serial and the comic by compiling the entire *Knightfall-Quest-Search-End* saga. This revealed the final fate of both Bruce Wayne and Azrael, a full two months before the comic story's conclusion.

Bravura strikes back

WATCH OUT for Kevin Maguire and Jonathan Peterson's **Strikeback!** from Malibu's Bravura imprint.

The series marks Maguire's return to regular artwork — he's mainly been doing covers since he pulled out on **Captain America: Sentinel of Liberty** in 1992.

Strikeback! mixes action and adventure with weird super-powered characters and a script reminiscent of Giffen & DeMatteis's peak on **Justice League International**.

Movers forecasts a positive reaction to this well-produced series.

Perez at Image

GEORGE (everything) Perez has announced he will be writing and drawing a new title for Image.

With an envigourated kinship possibly brought about by Rob Liefeld buying all of Perez's unpublished **JLA/Avengers** original artwork for a huge sum of money at the recent New York Southeby's auction, Perez's new book will be called **Gladiator**.

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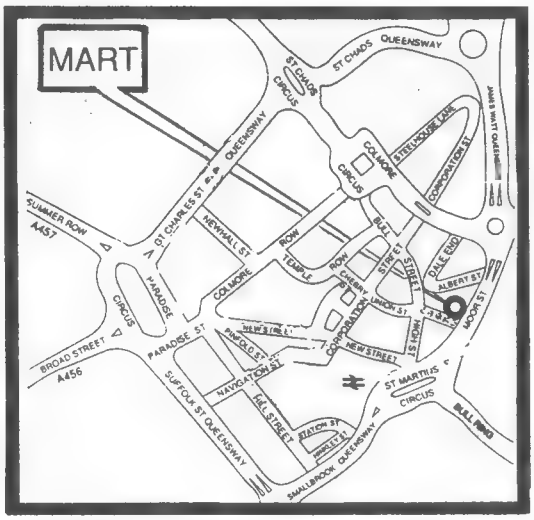

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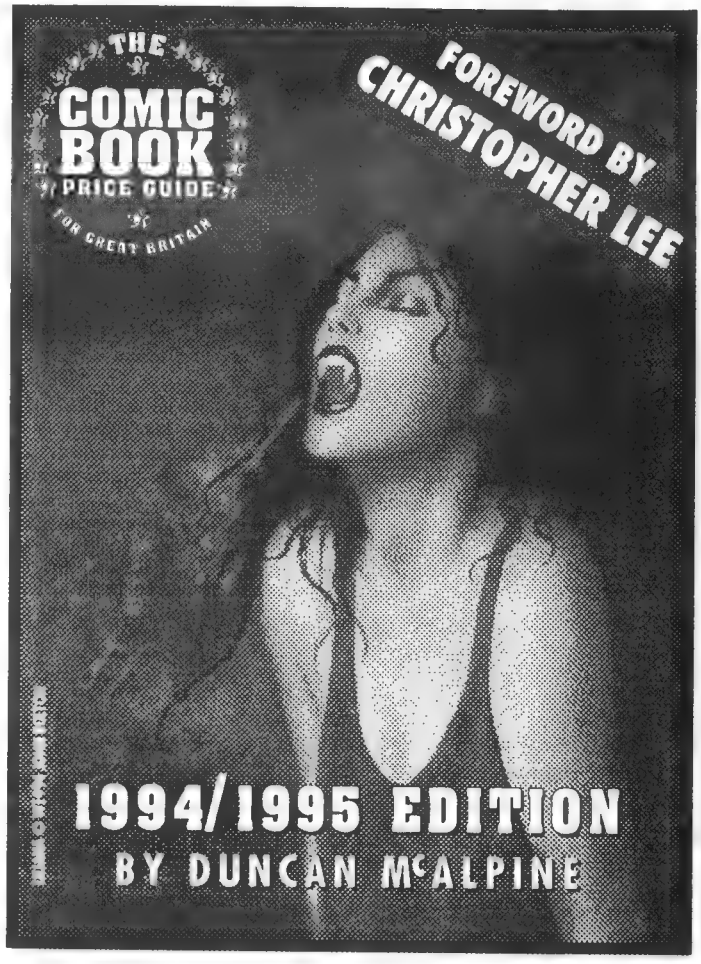

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LETTERS

COMICS INTERNATIONAL's letters column is your forum for opinion on publications, writers, artists, prices, market trends and anything else connected with the industry. As such, opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher. Letters intended for publication will only be edited as a grammatical or space consideration. Please to certain to include your name and full address, anonymous letters will not be published.

Comics International Letters, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

Alan Dempsey
13 Stanley Road, Birkenhead

THERE appears to be a large amount of conjecture regarding censorship in the US comics press. This to me appears to be jumping on a bandwagon that hasn't yet been built. It seems almost as if people in the States are falling over themselves to have censorship imposed on them.

I live in dread of a mass-murderer or a lunatic with a rifle hitting the headlines who's got a stack of **World's Finest** or **X-Men** at the bottom of his wardrobe. That's when it will hit the fan.

As for rating comics with an 18 or PG certificate: totally unenforceable. Can you honestly see a hard pressed retailer *not* selling the latest **Sin City** or **Aliens** mini-series because he knows the customer wanting to buy it is only 16 or 17?

And who would judge? Each film given a classification is judged on its own merits, so surely each and every issue of each and every title should similarly be judged. There would have to be a huge panel of judges in order to work their way through the amount of product now on the market.

In 1954, Doctor Fredric Wertham convinced enough people that comics *were* an evil influence on kids. Surely, 40 years later and throughout the liberalisation of the '60s and pragmatism of the lates '70s and '80s, we wouldn't be so easily dictated to.

Of course, politicians will lend their voices to any cause in the name of short-term popularity, so we'd get no help from that quarter. All this could, of course, never come to pass. We could be debating on a ratings system that will never come about. But if a style police or a good-taste force ever comes into being, then expect your monthly **Youngblood** to be classified as an 18!

Warren Gillham
Comics Unlimited, The Arcade, Letchworth, Herts.

COMICS Unlimited held a charity day on June 4th and a total of £250 was raised for the YMCA. On the day various items were auctioned from Diamond UK, Titan, First Choice Wholesale, Made in Heaven, Chris Harvey Games, Games Workshop, Sony, Manga Entertainment and Grenadier.

A Dalek, provided by Made in Heaven, helped to get people into the store and the Letchworth roleplaying club ran many demonstration and participation games.

We would like to thank all the companies who donated items to the cause, all the customers who donated money so generously and especially to Henry Cook for the Dalek.

Jim Graham, 201 Wickham Close
West Wickham, Kent

I'VE written a couple of potentially controversial *Comments* in **Comics International** in my time and have been surprised at the lack of opposition. But the most bizarre thing is that what evoked the most response was such a non-issue.

As part of my "Vertigo's Tunnel Vision" *Comment* (**Comics International** #37), I accused Rachel Pollack, Ann Nocenti and Dick Foreman of being hacks. But my *point* was that Vertigo was trying to make out that it was somehow morally superior to such companies as Marvel, while being just as unimaginative.

On the subject of my opinion of Rachel Pollack, Gillian Jaysmith has written two comments (issues 39 & 43), and in turn has evoked the response of Andy Brewer (#41). I cannot understand how half a paragraph of a six paragraph article can garner such a response.

Andrew Harvey,
Leytonstone, London E11

THIS is actually an open letter to Defiant head man Jim Shooter. I'm sending it to **Comics International** because I can't imagine Defiant would print it, and it's a point of view which I believe deserves public airing.

I've just finished reading Defiant's **Dogs of War #2**. New writer Art Holcomb shows promise, but what really annoyed me enough to write was the constant praise for Jim Shooter from every quarter. Holcomb's full page editorial sings Shooter's praises. Departing associate editor Ed Polgardy's page sings Shooter's praises. The two pages of letters sing Shooter's praises. Jim Shooter himself has two pages to talk about himself.

Didn't Golda Meir say something like, "Don't be so humble, you're not that great."? Mr Shooter has yet to even *reach* the stage of humility. Is he still so bitter over past mistreatment that he must use his new titles (as in 6 pages directly and indirectly) to tell the world how important he is and what great things he's achieved.

Come on, let's get real. Being great doesn't sell shit. Lucas was great, but **Howard the Duck** stank. Stan Lee was great, but even he couldn't sell **Ravage 2099**. Need I go on? You're only as bankable as your latest work. Punters will only buy good stories, not stories about how good the boss is.

Maybe Shooter believes he should give new guys a break at writing, but let's get a few solid books written by this creative genius established first. It's not enough to create ideas, it's the interpretation that counts.

Less boasts and more scripts, Jim. Every Defiant reader is almost brainwashed into believing your greatness, some of us oldsters can even remember your peaks. So let's see you justify your backers' faith with a few more scripts and let's have less self-aggrandising back-patting.

Don't fall into the Image trap where creators become overwhelmed with production and management duties, Jim. Pay somebody else to do such things instead of paying unknowns to do what you yourself are best at.

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Alan Moore

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To complete my card sets I need the following: **Simpsons** w1, w2, w5, w8, c1, c2, c4, c5, g1, g2, g3, g4; **Marvel Masterpieces** 1-d, 4-d; **Doomsday** s1, s2, s3, s4, f1, f2. I have lots of cards to swap. Contact Kevin, 47 Grove Rd, Romford, Essex RM6 4AQ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fanzine and small press titles must not be offered for sale before being printed. To verify publication, samples should be sent with advertising copy.

Better Than Nothing 14. Special summer sleaze issue — containing absolutely no sleaze — If you like comics then there's no need to buy this! "Completely loopy nonsense" says **Comics International**, who are we to argue, these boys know what they're talking about. 45p inclusive of everything to Obi Dave Abdy, 34 Oaklands Dr, Westone, Northampton NN3 3JL. Better than a Midland Bank advert!

It's a bloopin' riot! **Rhonda Rocket** is here! The bizarre adventures of the girl next door. Bleepin' brilliant launch issue available now!! £2 payable to Nick Taylor, Square Jaw Productions, 53 St Davids Road North, St Annes-on-Sea, Lancashire FY8 2BS.

Invictus Comics: I regret to announce that due to increased non-comics related work, I will be unable to launch Ad Invictus upon an unweary population until September of this year. The postponement is only a temporary setback, and to all those correspondents who wrote, you will still get your copies as soon as the thing is completed. Thanks for your patience, Barry Renshaw - Editor.

This very talented artist seeks a partner who is serious about a career in comics. I need someone who has, or is about to set up a high quality small press publication, with my talent and your know how we could go far. T Wright, 256 Hither Green Lane, Lewisham, SE13 6TT.

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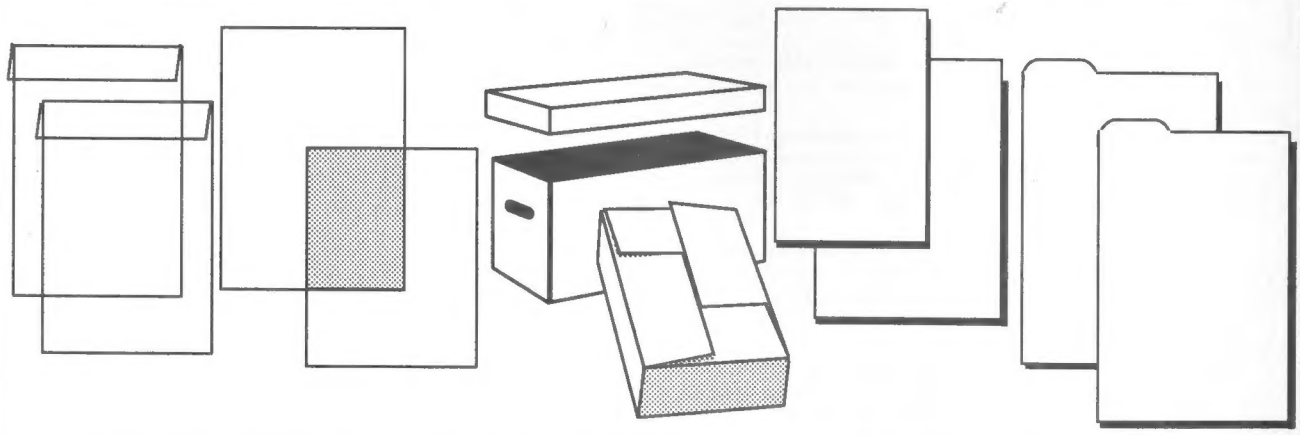

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The **CoBRA MOPS** agreement abides by the Advertising Standards Authority's Code of Mail Order Advertising Practice

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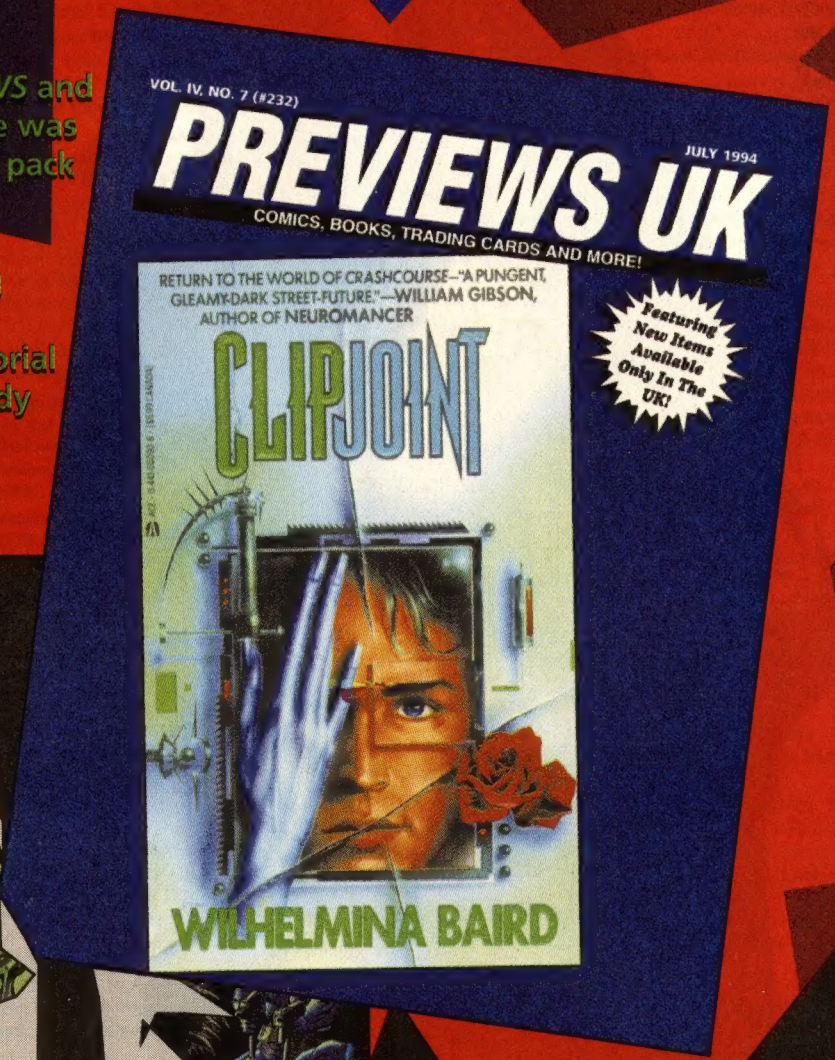
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